

# Inside the Seed Business

# HIGHTIMES

June 4/23

**GHOST TRAIN  
HAZE #3**  
THC ANALYSIS:  
**27.46%**

**SoCal's  
BEST BUDS**

**WOMEN  
WHO GROW**

**POT AND  
PTSD**



**WHOOPI  
ON WEED**

**THE STRONGEST  
STRAINS  
ON EARTH**



HIGHTIMES.COM



# BC Bud Depot

## AND REEFERMAN REEFERMAN SEEDS

NOVEMBER 2004

CELEBRATE  
**10 YEARS**  
OF CHAMPIONSHIP BREEDING!

DECEMBER 2014



**10 YEARS YOUNGER:** Reeferman (Charles Scott, left) and BCBD's Matt Harvey each placed first overall at the High Times Cannabis Cup in 2004, in Amsterdam. Charles took home the Sativa crown with Love Potion #1 and Matt's winning Indica was BC God Bud.



In 2014 Charles (2nd from right) and Matt (center) were back in Amsterdam at the 27th Annual Cannabis Cup. BC Bud Depot won an award with Night Nurse, a joint project and hybrid of Reeferman's Harmony.

### REEFERMAN'S SEED LIST

#### PRICES PER 10-SEED PACK

- BC GOLD - \$100
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- CBD OG KUSH - \$125
- CBD WILLIE - \$125
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- EARLY BUBBA KUSH - \$100
- EARLY PURPLE KUSH - \$100
- FIRE OG KUSH - \$200 ♀
- GOLDEN TEMPLE KUSH - \$100
- GRAPEFRUIT - \$200 ♀
- HARMONY - \$100
- HASH PLANT - \$100
- HOA BAC SILVER FLOWER - \$200 ♀
- KINGS CROSS - \$100
- KODIAC GOLD - \$100
- LOVE POTION X NIGERIAN - \$100
- LOVE POTION 1.1 - \$100
- MALAWI WOWIE - \$200 ♀
- NIGERIAN NIGHTMARE - \$100
- ORANGE PEAKO - \$100
- PETROLIA HEADSTASH - \$100
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- WILLIE NELSON - \$100



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## LED GROW LIGHTS BY LIGHTING EXPERTS THAT GROW!

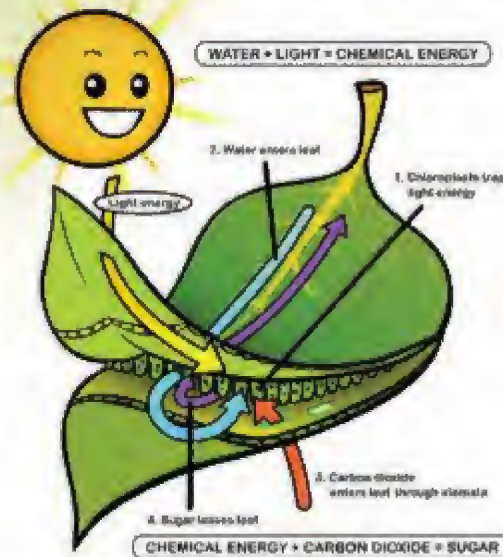
Spectrum King LED Grow Lights are made and designed by LED Experts that manufacture industrial LED Lights for various fields such as medical, government, military, commercial, and agriculture for over 10 Years; and the best part about it is WE GROW! We have gone through and continue to use every LED in the market place designing many LED solutions in various applications and designs. There is no other better company to design and build an LED grow light. The same experts with the LED knowledge are growers who have over a decade of experience and hundreds of grow cycles done.

### WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT SPECTRUM KING LEDs

Spectrum King LED Grow Lights are designed to mimic the outdoor sunlight. Why change what Mother Nature has already perfected for millions of years. Trying to change the spectrum of the sun and provide only 2, 3, 4 even 8 colors with LEDs will never reproduce what the sun or any traditional agriculture lights such as High Pressure Sodium and Metal Halide lamps will do. The sun carries many spectrums including ones we don't even see; even traditional HPS lights put out a high band of nano-meter wavelengths (color-spectrums) which is why it has been successful in the agriculture application today. Spectrum King LED Grow Lights put out spectrums from 380-750nm (See opposite page). This means that not only virtually every color is in the light, but also ones you can't see, truly mimicking the sunlight and traditional HPS lamps with matching intensities of over 100,000Lux, which is crucial for activating photorespiration. We all know that the blue and red wavelengths are the true wavelengths that dominate the "active-photosynthesis" area of the spectrum, and so you might think that providing these colors should circumvent the rules of nature. But there is a problem. Plants need to have photo-respiration and a reason to want water/nutrients. What that means is plants need to receive heat and "Sweat" By "Sweat" we mean when the plant receives heat (Intense Yellow Light), the stomatas on the leaf surfaces open and close and allow photo-respiration to take place. When photo-respiration takes place the plants are in work out mode and want to drink nutrients just like humans want to drink water.

# SPECTRUM KING

SPECTRUM KING LED also offers 480VAC APPLICATIONS and DIMMABLE/WIRELESS CONTROL SYSTEMS AS EXTRA ADD-ONS.



Traditional LEDs only carry the spectrums that activate when and after the photo-respiration period takes place. By giving plants only "beneficial" spectrums you are essentially putting them into a chill mode. Although this is a good way to make a healthy plant,

it will not yield you what Spectrum King LED grow lights will. Going back to the "beneficial" spectrums, imagine the difference between a human relaxing indoor in an air-conditioned room on the couch and an athlete that's working out all day. Which one will drink more water and excel forward? This is the reason traditional LED lights don't produce the right yields and sometimes finish cycles with immature plants that are not in the complete stage.

### ADDITIONAL SPECTRUM KING LED FEATURES

While HPS lights need over 1,000watts to produce the proper intensity needed to produce a lot of Lumens, Sunlight LED Grow lights do that with only 415 watts total. This allows grower to save on electricity and benefit from lower ambient temperatures which translate to less A/C expenses and more energy savings. In a grow room, cleanliness is a great factor. Unfortunately at times gardens can be infested with bugs and other insects even soil and dust. Many LED lights have fans for cooling which also has a down side, Bugs get in and so does moisture from humidifiers and misters. The LEDs get filled with "garbage" and lose cooling and even light performance. Spectrum King LED grow lights are IP65 rated, which means they are completely sealed from dust and moisture and can even be washed with a garden hose! Having an Industrial safety certified LED light allows growers to grow with ease and comfort. Our lights feature variable voltage application, which means you can plug them into 110 VAC all the way to 277VAC.

*Many people use CREE diodes. In fact, we do too. But CREE HAS ONLY ONE BRANDING PARTNER for Agricultural Lighting; and guess who that is? That's right, Spectrum King LED.*





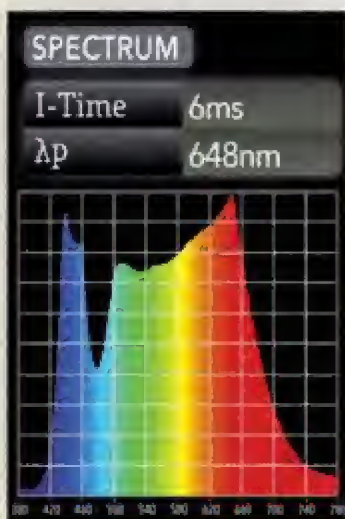
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\*Using a 400 Series LED with a 60° reflector

## TESTIMONIALS

"Insane trich production! Even in mid flower plants are just producing crazy trichomes."  
Dustin, CA

"This light is the future. Fully developed bud sites at 2 weeks. Producing resin. Incredible. Shocked with the performance."  
Bud, WA

"Yields about the same as my HPS but **saves me buckets on my electric bill**. No moving parts and these lights are really built tough. No humming or buzzing at all. Glad I found them."  
Special K, CA

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# HIGH TIMES JUNE



*At the climax of the show, Ross and B-Real shared a massive blunt made from a champagne bottle with the crowd, as attendees and photographers jostled to take pics of the revelry.*

—So High in SoCal, page 47

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## 47 So High in SoCal

Check out our massive Cannabis Cup in San Bernardino, which featured performer Rick Ross as well as a huge product expo offering the best pot and concentrates in Southern California. *By Danny Danko*

## 58 An Element of Success

As the cannabis industry matures, successful growers and entrepreneurs are seeking each other out to form new—and equally successful—cannabusiness partnerships. *By Dan Skye*

## 69 The Strongest Strains on Earth

Our list of the most potent strains on the planet, gleaned from our 2014 Cannabis Cups, showcases pot varieties that are sure to please. *By Nico Escondido*

## 88 Grower Girls

Meet the industry's leading female growers and learn what they have to say about properly nurturing your crops! *By Elise McDonough*

## 99 The Green Legion

Twenty percent of vets who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are said to suffer from some degree of PTSD. Canada now helps vets get medical marijuana prescriptions and provides a communal setting to recover in. *By Chris Simunek*

## 109 High Times Interview: Whoopi Goldberg

She's an Oscar-winning actress, a gifted comedian and one of the stars of *The View*. But Whoopi Goldberg is also an incisive political activist who advocates strongly for cannabis legalization. *By Rick Cusick*





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# HIGH TIMES .com

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Taylor-made glass is suitable for stoners who respect the craft.

## ► Glass Artist of the Month

Brendan Taylor, whose professional handle is BMFT, started working with glass six years ago, having moved to Tucson, AZ from Rockville, MD “for no real reason.”

He met Web, a.k.a. Test1, also a glassblower. Over the course of a few years, Brendan met a host of the other top artists, like Calvin Mickle, Micah Blatt, a.k.a. Fathead, Natey, Eusheen, John Mims and others.

“I thought they were all crazy messing with fire like that,” he says. “It kinda scared me! But it intrigued me, too.”

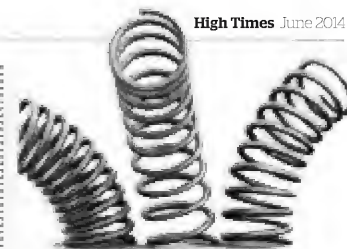
Eventually, he was coerced into trying it and immediately fell in love with the art. “I saved

three weeks’ worth of unemployment checks, bought a torch and tools and took off running. I haven’t turned off my torch since!” he says.

Like many artists, Brendan says his medium has “brought so much meaning and depth to my life.”

Now based in Denver, Brendan says, “I’m able to create things that make me and other people happy in a way I never could do with skating or music, which I did both intensively for years. I feel so welcomed by the consistently creative spirit of the glass industry.”

*Check out Brendan’s work at [hightimes.com](http://hightimes.com) or view his work on Instagram @bmftglassarts.*



## ► Spring Forward!

Check in with us online as we get you ready for spring planting season. Remember, preparation is everything! Make sure you get your grow op in great shape, so you can enjoy the fruits of your labor at harvest.

## ► Summer Rockin’

Plan your own personal summer concert tour so you’re always high in the right place. Get the HT Festival Guide online!



## ► Psychedelicatessen

Every week, Elise McDonough takes you into her kitchen for high-caliber cannabis cuisine. Check out recipes that will make your dining experience extra dank. Plus, check out Elise’s Books, *The Official High Times Cannabis Cookbook* and *Marijuana for Everybody* in our online headshop!



## Miss June 2015

NAME: Sativa  
 SCREEN NAME: @sativaball  
 CITY: Denver, CO  
 OCCUPATION: Budtender, MIP maker  
 AGE: 29

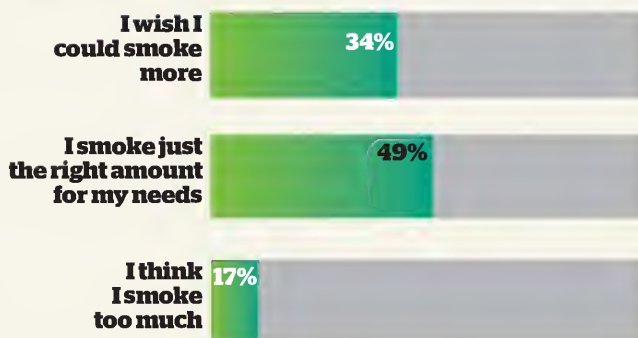
To enter or view contestants, go to [misshightimes.com](http://misshightimes.com). You must be 18 or older to enter.

### POT POLL

## Your Smoking Habits

The word “pothead” conjures up the image of an individual who spends their entire day getting high. It’s a very imprecise term and we don’t like it. That being said, how do you feel about your own smoking habits? Of nearly 4,500 responses, only 17 percent of you believe you smoke too much, while more than a third wanted to take up more. But half of us are doing just fine, thank you!

Cast your vote in our latest poll online!







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Women are rising to the top of the cannabis industry.

## The Grass Ceiling

**T**here's been a lot of media attention devoted to the influx of women in the increasingly legal cannabis industry, including many "stiletto stoners" from other fields seeking to break through the grass ceiling and make their mark in the burgeoning pot business. Accomplished, talented women are now growing cannabis and running dispensaries; making hash, edibles and concentrates, as well as dominating the topicals niche; and starting new companies left and right. There's so much activity that our managing editor, Jen Bernstein, will be profiling successful ganjapreneurs every month in her new "Cannabusiness" column on page 117.

These days, highly paid cannabis consultants sell advice on how pot businesses can appeal to the female demographic, pointing out that women make the majority of household purchasing decisions and represent a huge potential market for cannabis-infused edibles, supplements and other wellness products. Some are moms or even grandmas, others are serious professionals, and still others are fun-loving tattoo artists or burlesque performers—but they all love the herb and benefit from it in diverse ways.

Following in the footsteps of pioneering seed breeder MzJill, more women are deciding to grow their own weed, and we'll meet a few of them in "Grower Girls" on page 88. Meanwhile, stoner icon Whoopi Goldberg shares her views on the emerging world of legalized pot in the *High Times* Interview on page 109.

Fully half of the *High Times* staff are women, including our publisher, managing editor, director of digital media, lifestyle editor, design director and licensing manager. It's the female plant that produces all of our favorite cannabinoids, and it's about time she won the right to grow free!

Stay irie,

*Elise McDonough*  
Author of *Marijuana for Everybody!*

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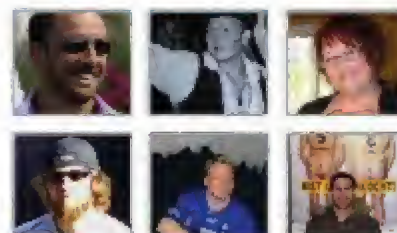
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**Our Thanks to You!**

I'm a combat veteran of both the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, and I suffer from PTSD. I was given "meds" to help with my treatment. I truly feel that if I hadn't stopped taking those pills and took a trip out to Colorado instead—where I could ask the right questions about medical marijuana—I would have ended up as one of the many vets that die from suicide each day. People like you at the magazine have had the courage to challenge the old ways of thinking, allowing a new idea to bloom. That idea led to my finding the right medicine—and, as a result, finding some of the person I used to be again. You are heroes to me. Thank you.

*Sgt. Jeremy Greenbaum, US Army  
(med. ret.)*

**Cannabis Cup Coda**

I enjoyed "Fight for Your Right to Party" (April '15). I'm Dutch, and what Ben Dronkers said is right: "So many miracles come out of this plant."

See you in Denver!

*Zambeze  
Lafayette, CO*

**Idiots Among Us**

US attorney general nominee Loretta Lynch has told Congress that she opposes legalizing marijuana and would use federal money-laundering laws to attack states that have legalized.

Why do we keep elevating idiots to positions of power? Academic achievement aside, anyone who thinks America's drug policy is working qualifies as an idiot. Anyone who thinks the perils of pot justify the money, freedoms and lives already squandered fighting it is absolutely an idiot. If liberty offends you so much that you feel it's necessary to lock people away for something as innocuous as weed, perhaps a free country isn't for you. Move to North Korea, where the government can tell you how to live, and where you'll be surrounded by like-minded folks.

Forgive my lack of tact, but I have zero tolerance for prohibitionists. Anyone who loves liberty must vote against those who oppose it. Forget all of the other issues and just say "no" to idiots.

*Joseph Galeani  
Middletown, NJ*

**CBD and Being Bipolar**

I'm writing to reach out to people like



## I have zero tolerance for prohibitionists. Anyone who loves liberty must vote against those who oppose it.

myself who are bipolar and fighting that battle every day of their lives. I am bipolar I with anxiety/depression disorder, and I'm writing to you to let you know my story. For the past year, I've been put on so many depression/anxiety medications that I've forgotten all their names. I was beyond over-medicated and felt like a zombie at times.

Last month, I decided to get evaluated by a different doctor in order to get my medical cannabis card. He told me about CBD and the benefits it has. Since I wasn't looking to get stoned, I was very interested in CBD. I got my card and decided to do some research and visit a dispensary. They were very helpful and got me the right CBD edibles to try out.

So far, the results have been beyond amazing, with no THC "high" effect. There was nothing on record about CBD helping people with bipolar issues, but I really believe it's helping me so much with my bipolar episodes, as well as with my depression/anxiety. It really does work miracles, and I'm so happy that I found the right medicine for me. It's more natural than popping a Xanax. I have gotten so much better and have been off my other medication for over three months.

*Nick W.*

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**High Fever**

I love your work, and your stories are very helpful. But during the winter season many smokers get the flu—including me—there's a dilemma. I've been trying to smoke, but it leads to an incessant cough on top of my flu symptoms. My inquiry is: What's the best way to toke up while sick?

*Flu Sufferer*

If you insist on smoking, take small sips. The beauty of cannabis is that you need very little to medicate. But to avoid exacerbating your symptoms, trying using a vaporizer or vapor pen—or eat edibles.

**A Medicine for Life**

The first time I ever used cannabis was sometime in middle school. During high school, I began to use cannabis increasingly. By then, I was grabbing every book I could find about cannabis because, unlike other drugs, it seemed to have the least harmful side effects. At 10, I suffered a near-fatal head injury, and since then I've experienced headaches on a daily basis.

My suspicion is that relief was provided when I used marijuana—not Tylenol. It wasn't a conclusion that I came to right away, but the knowledge I gained from reading countless books brought me to believe that this was in fact the case.

As I sit here writing this with moderately severe back pain due to a car accident that fractured one of my vertebrae, I know that marijuana has the potential to alleviate some of the pain that I experience.

I wish I could contribute more toward the greater understanding of cannabis and the value it has for human beings. I'm still seeking knowledge and relief, as (unfortunately) many of my symptoms are worsening with age. Thank you, *High Times*, for providing a valuable resource to people in an age of cannabis prohibition.

*Chris*

**Correction**

In the April '15 story "Too Large: The Rise and Fall of the Norton Boys," grow room photos on pages 98 and 100 were falsely attributed to the Compassionate Patients' Cooperative of California. In fact, The CPCC was strictly a medical marijuana dispensary and did not grow marijuana.



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**Loud Berry Flower**  
2nd Place *Sativa*  
Loud Seeds SL

**Tangle**  
3rd Place *Sativa*  
Dr. Greenthumbs

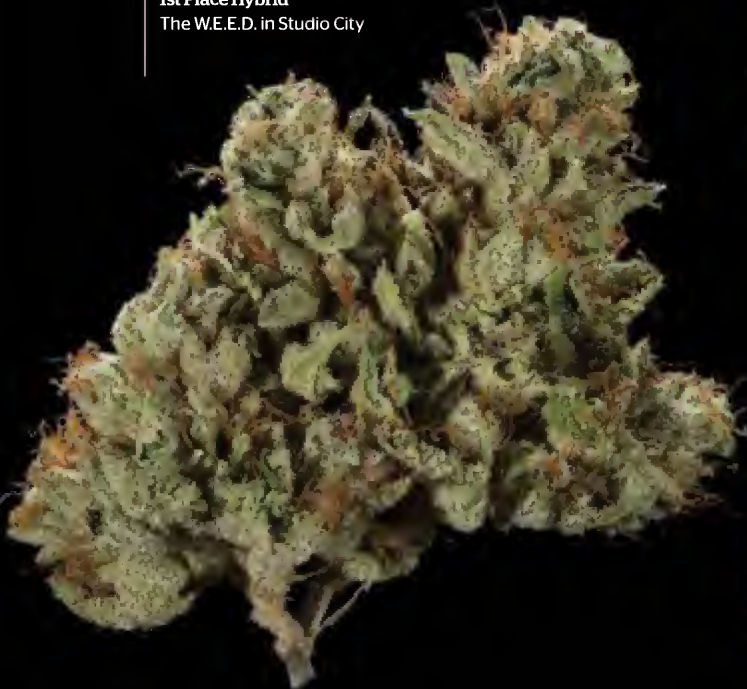


**Orange Cookies**  
2nd Place Hybrid  
TLC Collective

**2010 Grizzly Genetics**  
3rd Place Hybrid  
Grizzly Genetics in collaboration  
with Patients Premium Collective



**Wellness OG**  
1st Place Hybrid  
The W.E.E.D. in Studio City

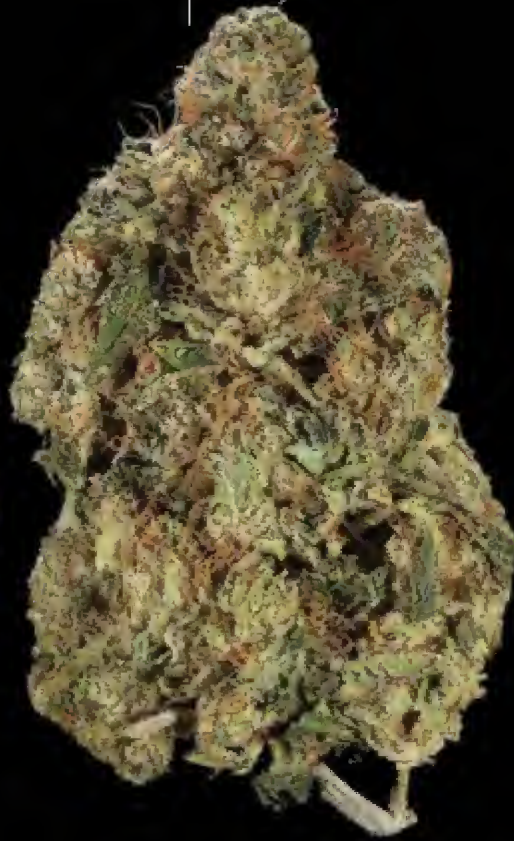




**Kosher Kush**  
1st Place *Indica*  
Greenwolf LA with Kush Company

**Lorax OG**  
2nd Place *Indica*  
Lorax Labs from CannaSutra Collective

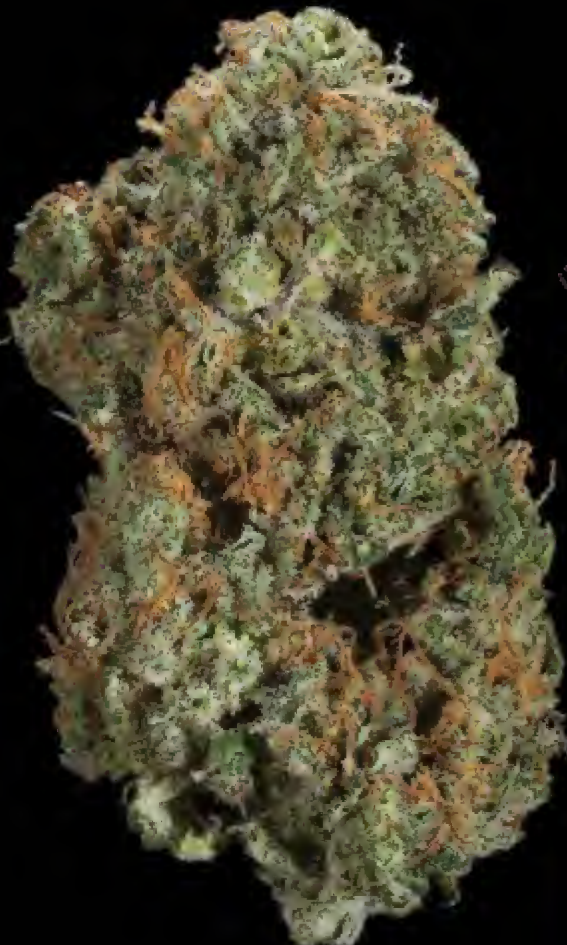
**Dr. K's Paris OG Kush**  
3rd Place *Indica*  
Call Natural Collective



**Vegan Buddha Milagro**  
3rd Place CBD  
Greenwolf LA with Vegan Buddha

**V.C.D.C.**  
1st Place CBD  
Moxie Seeds & Extracts

**Vitamin CBD**  
2nd Place CBD  
Growers Guild









**MOBBED UP** One of the regular experiences of the High Times Cannabis Cup: crowding in on the cannabis businesses that stage giveaways from their booths in the medication area. All kinds of goodies get thrown into the high hordes: t-shirts, vape pens—sometimes even medication! Get yourself to a Cannabis Cup soon! *Photo by Sly Vegas*

**Contact  
High**









**ELEMENTAL CASE** What does it take to become one of the most successful medical marijuana dispensaries in California? Attention to detail, great strains and plenty of space to grow them. Elemental Wellness, based in San Jose, oversees this expansive greenhouse in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Read about Elemental Wellness and Elemental Seeds in "An Element of Success" on page 58. *Photo by Dan Skye*

**Contact  
High**







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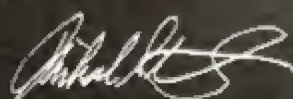
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Michael "BigMike" Straumiets

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# Highwitness News

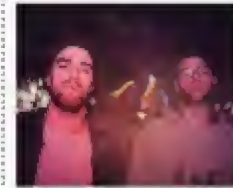
Jane  
Sure Is  
Fonda  
Pot!



## Entertainment

### Chainsmokers Light Up

Blazin' with the club kid phenoms. p.34



## Food

### Nuggalicious Nugtella

A delicious, chocolaty hazelnut treat. p.40



Keep an eye out for stop-and-seizure tactics.



## License to Steal

Asset forfeiture allows the cops to legally steal your valuables under the pretense that you're a criminal or a terrorist. *By Russ Belville*

**Two poker players** are driving a rental car through Iowa on their way to Las Vegas. They get pulled over by a state trooper, who informs them that they failed to signal while passing another car. The trooper gives them a warning for the alleged failure to signal, but continues asking them if they have drugs or "large amounts of US currency" in the car. Despite the fact that the poker players do not consent to a search and ask to leave, a drug dog arrives on the scene to search their car.

The police find \$100,000 in cash, shrink-wrapped in plastic, and an herb grinder with marijuana residue in it.

After a trip to headquarters and two hours of questioning, the poker players are released with a citation for misdemeanor paraphernalia possession—a \$65 fine. But the cops keep the \$100,000, thanks to the practice of legalized theft known as asset forfeiture.

A series of reports from the *Washington Post* have detailed how asset forfeiture has become, quite literally, highway robbery. Essentially, it's a legal practice that allows the cops to steal your cash, car, home or other valuables, under the pretext that all your assets are the ill-gotten gains of (unproven) criminal activity. The idea, which was pushed by

then-Senator Joe Biden in the late 1980s, was to seize the sports cars, yachts and cash of *Miami Vice*-style cocaine kingpins and then use that loot to fund law enforcement's war on organized crime. A laudable goal, perhaps, but one that came with a huge consequence—policing for profit.

After a while, the idea shifted away from going after cocaine kingpins, since they could afford an army of lawyers to mount a defense in court. The better option was to nail small-time dealers or users, who had enough money worth taking but not enough means to fight back. And it takes some means to fight back, since your property has no constitutional rights and is considered guilty until proven innocent. In fact, you don't even need to be charged with a crime (and usually aren't) in order for the cops to steal your property on the theory that it was acquired through criminal activity.

Asset forfeiture was so lucrative that a retired California cop named Joe "Canine"



« David, who had a talent for finding contraband in vehicles during roadside stops, started a company called Desert Snow in 1989 to train other cops on his stop-and-seizure techniques. Throughout the 1990s, Desert Snow taught cops how to push the constitutional limits in questioning suspects, detaining them and searching their vehicles.

Asset forfeiture accelerated following the 9/11 terror attacks. In 2003, David was called on by Congress to demonstrate how to investigate the potential smuggling of weapons and explosives in vehicles by terrorists. That led to a flow of millions of dollars in federal grants and contracts for Desert Snow, now rebranded as a counterterrorism program, allowing it to expand its training nationwide.

Desert Snow's services include a sort of private social network for cops called Black Asphalt. The network was sold as a way to help law enforcement "connect the dots" to prevent the next terrorist attack. Over 25,000 cops are online nationwide, sharing their tips on how to seize money from roadside stops. Most chillingly, the cops trade hunches about drivers who haven't committed any violations or crimes, sharing information regarding the cars they're driving and

## Cops trained by Desert Snow or online by Black Asphalt seized more than \$427 million in just five years.

where they're headed. In fact, it was a tip from an Illinois cop that alerted the Iowa trooper to follow the poker players a few miles before making the stop.

According to the *Washington Post*, "Police nationwide have seized \$2.5 billion in cash from almost 62,000 people without warrants or indictments under federal civil asset-forfeiture laws since 2001." Cops trained by Desert Snow or online by Black Asphalt seized more than \$427 million in just five years.

Fortunately, we now have four states that have legalized marijuana for adult recreational use. Has this ended the seizures? Unfortunately, no. Thanks to a federal program known as "equitable sharing," local cops in legal states can simply transfer their cases to federal court, where marijuana is still illegal. The feds then take their cut of the forfeited assets, while the local cops get to keep up to 80 percent of what's left.

The American Civil Liberties Union and the Institute for Justice are now

tackling this legal nightmare. Their work has helped to defend some of the biggest victims of asset forfeiture, including a California man who nearly lost his \$1.5 million office building over a \$37 purchase at a medical marijuana dispensary.

As for the poker players, they fought the seizure, using the trooper's dash-cam video to prove they had properly signaled on the freeway. The men cut a deal to get 90 percent of their money back. In other words, the police still wound up with \$10,000, despite absolutely no probable cause for a traffic stop, based on the hunch of an out-of-state cop who had posted on an online network for police treasure-hunting. The poker players have now hired a new lawyer to pursue civil-rights charges against Desert Snow and Black Asphalt for incentivizing police to violate the Fourth and Fifth Amendment rights of Americans. ✨

*Listen to The Russ Belville Show at [radicalruss.com](http://radicalruss.com).*

### HIGH FIVE

## Myth Busting

Let's debunk the bullshit of the anti-cannabis crowd. *By Mark Miller*



### Pot Causes Drought

Colorado has a serious water shortage, and recreational pot is being scapegoated. In reality, the problem stems from decades of a poorly planned water policy called the "Colorado Doctrine," which has resulted in western Colorado holding 70 percent of the state's water, with just 11 percent of the population. A serious drought in the West linked to climate change—not legal pot—also impacts water supply.



### Pot and Lung Cancer

The old "one joint equals a pack of cigarettes" argument has been thoroughly discredited. A June 2014 *International Journal of Cancer* study of 2,000 lung-cancer cases found no link to pot smoking. A January 2015 study from Emory University reported that smoking a jay a day doesn't negatively affect the lungs, confirming 2013 research from UCLA that the habitual use of weed didn't lead to significant abnormalities in lung function.



### Teens Smoke More

Nope. A 2014 *Journal of Adolescent Health* study reviewing 20 years of data found no increase. In fact, the government's annual survey on drug use reported a decline in teen pot consumption last year. Additionally, a 2012 study showed no spike in teen use in states that had legalized medical marijuana, and the most recent US Centers for Disease Control survey found no increase in teen use from 2011 to 2013.



### More Car Crashes

Last year, an ominous University of Colorado study claimed that, statewide, more drivers in fatal accidents were testing positive for pot. But there's no way to causally link pot use to those crashes as cannabis metabolites remain in the body for up to a month. A more logical analysis of the data in an August 2014 *Washington Post* article revealed that Colorado's traffic fatalities were at a historic low since pot was legalized.



### Pot Harms Cognition

Biased government studies depict pot as a potential cause of cognitive defects in regular users. But a study conducted by the Harvard Medical School in 2005 used magnetic-resonance imaging on 22 habitual pot smokers and found no significant structural changes within their brains compared to non-users. Also, a 2011 Australian study found no link between long-term use and cognitive dysfunction.



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## Angry Buds

A Canadian mother found two vacuum-sealed bags of weed stashed inside a *Star Wars*-themed Angry Birds play set.

The gift for her son, purchased at a Target in Ontario, cost \$5.99, but the surprise stash inside was valued at \$800 by police. Officers visited the store and searched other play-set boxes, but they failed to find additional weed.

Authorities are examining surveillance footage to determine who may have put the pot in the Angry Birds box. While it's unlikely the manufacturer was attempting to set a new high level, it's possible the stash was part of an overly clever cannabis exchange that went awry when the wrong person picked up the game.

## Reefer Recall

The Canadian government has recalled a strain of medical marijuana—not because of toxins or mold, but because the pot was too potent. Peace Naturals Project of Ontario voluntarily recalled its Nyce N' EZ strain after a Health Canada inspection and subsequent third-party testing revealed the THC level to be as high as 13.7 percent. (The strain's label lists it at 9.07 percent.)

Health Canada claims that high THC levels may increase the risk of "adverse effects." However, Nyce N' EZ registered at just half the THC content of some of the strongest strains available these days. Not surprisingly, there have been no reported negative incidents with anyone consuming the pot.

Patients still in possession of Nyce N' EZ have been advised to discontinue use and can either ship the weed back to Peace Naturals or destroy their stash at home.

## MEA CULPA IN MEXICO



Former President Bill Clinton publicly apologized to Mexico for US involvement in Mexico's Drug War, which has killed over 120,000 people since 2006, with another 27,000 missing. Speaking in Mexico City, Clinton admitted: "I wish you had no narco-trafficking, but it's not really your fault. Basically, we [the US] did too good of a job of taking the transportation out of the air and water, and so we ran it over land. I apologize for that."

Clinton was referring to US prohibition policies that essentially pushed the trafficking from other countries into Mexico. Since 2008, the US has spent \$3 billion fighting the Mexican Drug War. And while it's likely little solace to the families of those killed, perhaps this apology will lead to a policy change should Hillary become president in 2016.

## Inside the Wide World of Weed



## Jane's Fonda Pot

Jane Fonda still gets high. In an interview with *Du Jour* magazine, the 77-year-old actress admitted, "I'll smoke pot every now and then." However, she draws the line at mixing marijuana and movies: "I cannot see a movie on pot. The number of movies I've seen thinking, 'This is probably the best I have ever seen,' and then I'll see it again and think, 'What was I thinking?'"

Fonda's pro-pot declaration perhaps marks a return to her roots as a counterculture touchstone. The two-time Academy Award winner was a staunch antiwar protester and political activist in the late 1960s and early '70s, famously earning the nickname "Hanoi Jane" after being photographed with North Vietnamese soldiers on a fact-finding tour of the country.

Fonda has teamed up with Lily Tomlin for the new comedy series *Grace and Frankie*, which will premiere on Netflix in May.

## Ex-Judge Regrets 55-Year Pot Prison Sentence

Retired federal judge Paul Cassell says he regrets imposing a 55-year sentence on Weldon Angelos, who was just 24 when he was incarcerated for selling pot in 2004. Cassell says he was forced to hand down the hefty punishment due to mandatory-minimum sentencing laws spawned by the War on Drugs in the 1980s.

Angelos, once an aspiring music producer in Salt Lake City, was

busted for selling \$1,000 worth of cannabis to an undercover informant in three separate deals. The narc claimed that Angelos was carrying a firearm during the sales, which caused them to fall under the mandatory-minimum laws. The state also stacked the charges against Angelos, meaning each of the three pot deals was prosecuted as a separate violation. By law, Angelos had to be sentenced as a three-time offender with no possibility of parole. Angelos is now 35 years old and will be 78 when his full sentence is finished in 2059.







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## Dutch Heat

In the Netherlands this winter, police unveiled their latest technique for detecting illegal pot gardens indoors: They look for roofs with melted snow.

Back in February, the cops raided a residence in Haarlem, a city west of Amsterdam, after noticing its roof was the only one on the block not covered in snow. The bare roof suggested that the apartment contained an abnormal number of lights, and that was all the probable cause needed to raid the house. Once inside, officers discovered snow-melting heat lamps on an industrial scale being used to cultivate an undisclosed number of plants. The cops even tweeted a pic of the roof as a warning to other growers.

Earlier, the conspicuous absence of rooftop snow led to a raid on a residence in the town of Zutphen, where the police found 88 plants. Dutch citizens are permitted to grow up to only five pot plants at any given time.

## Court Supports Berkeley Dispensary

In defiance of US Attorney Melinda Haag, a federal judge has allowed the Berkeley Patients Group to continue serving medical pot patients, pending a ruling by the courts on whether the city of Berkeley can sue Haag.

The US attorney has repeatedly attempted to shut down BPG since 2011, first for being too close to schools. Even after BPG relocated across town, the vindictive Haag sought to seize the dispensary's property in 2013 because marijuana is federally illegal. Her actions appear to disregard the Obama administration's instructions that federal prosecutors are not to interfere with state marijuana laws.

## MORE CANNABIS, LESS CRASHES



A 2015 study issued by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that drivers with a 0.05 percent blood-alcohol level were nearly seven times more likely to be involved in a crash than those driving under the influence of marijuana, most other illegal drugs and/or prescription medications.

Adjusting the "Drug and Alcohol Crash Risk" results for age, gender, race and the presence of alcohol, pot-using motorists were found to be no more likely to cause an accident than those driving completely sober.

The results help bolster the argument that using the blood-alcohol-content model for marijuana is a ridiculous way to determine impairment. Pot, like other drugs, can continue to show up in test samples for days or weeks after it's used, meaning that some subjects found to have THC in their systems may have been well past the period of impairment when they were behind the wheel.



## Chan Out of the Can

Jaycee Chan, the son of martial-arts movie star Jackie Chan, has been released from a Chinese prison after serving a six-month sentence for pot. Chan, 32, was formally charged with the crime of "sheltering others to take drugs" after police found 100 grams of weed in his Beijing apartment. (Basically, he got busted for allowing people to get high in his home.) Chan faced up to three years in prison, but the court took into account time served and his admission of guilt.

Jaycee Chan's arrest and subsequent outing as a pot smoker was a kick in the face for his world-famous father Jackie, who has served as China's "anti-drug ambassador" since 2009.

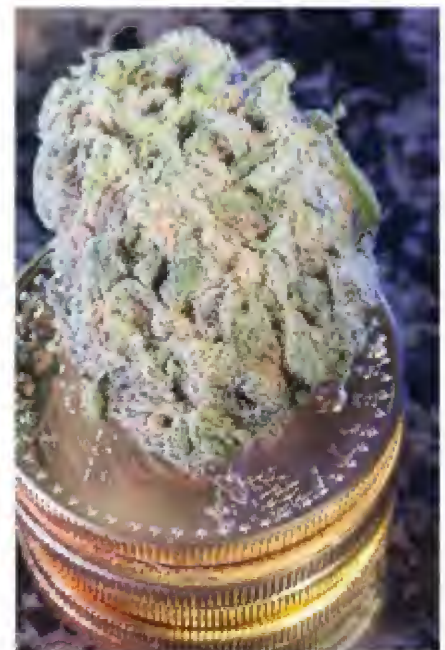
Chan's pot bust was also part of China's renewed crackdown on drugs. Drug arrests through August 2014 increased 72 percent compared to the previous year.

## THC Taxation

Colorado officials announced that the state took in \$44 million in tax revenues from recreational pot in 2014. The figure is well below the estimated projections for the first year of pot sales, which ranged as high as \$100 million. However, those projections were a shot in the dark.

Including medical cannabis taxes and industry fees, Colorado garnered a total of \$76 million from pot last year. Despite the lower-than-anticipated haul, it may have to refund some of the cash due to a state amendment restricting government spending and requiring any new voter-approved taxes (such as those generated by legal weed) to be returned to residents if the overall state taxes rise higher than sanctioned by law.

As expected, Colorado legislators would prefer to keep the cash,



and lawmakers are expected to vote on a measure that, if approved by residents, would allow the state to do just that.





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## HIGHWIRE

## Dispatches from the international drug war. *By Bill Weinberg*



Hash patrol

### Lebanon's Hash Valley Takes Up Arms Against ISIS

Reporting from the Bekaa Valley, Lebanon's hashish heartland, on January 5, Public Radio International spoke with cannabis farmers who say they're ready to fight any ISIS incursion into their region. Ali Nasri Shamas, who runs a hashish factory in Bouday village, took up arms in 2007 to resist the Lebanese government's cannabis-eradication forces. This effort paid off, since the army didn't return again until 2012. And now the Lebanese army and the country's hash producers are confronting a common enemy.

"This is for ISIS and the Nusra Front," Shamas said, brandishing a two-foot machete. (Nusra is Syria's Al Qaeda affiliate.) His arsenal also includes AK-47s, mounted machine guns, mortars and rocket-propelled grenades. The hashish producers note that ISIS has been zealously eradicating cannabis fields in northern Syria—and, presumably, dealing more ruthlessly with any resistance than the Lebanese army at its worst. ISIS has already made incursions into the Bekaa. When ISIS fighters attacked a village in October, cannabis farmers joined to defend it.



Razing a ganja field

### ISIS Burns Cannabis, Snorts Coke?

As ISIS torches the cannabis fields of northern Syria, there has come the news that its fighters are snorting cocaine to keep their spirits up. On January 6, *Vice News* posted a video from the town of Kobani in northern Syria, where local Kurdish fighters have been resisting an ISIS siege since September. The footage shows the Kurds with a big plastic bag of white powder taken from an ISIS commander's house. Kurdish fighters interviewed on camera said the house had been seized from Abu Zahra, an ISIS emir (as the Islamic militants call their commanders) who had earlier taken it over from local residents. After the emir was killed in house-to-house fighting, his home was searched. In addition to weapons (of course), the coke stash was found. The Kurdish fighters said they believed the ISIS commander was distributing coke to his own followers to fuel their fighting spirit.

The ISIS jihadis have good reason to be snorting blow to stimulate their flagging morale. In September, everyone thought Kobani was about to fall to the extremists. Instead, the Kurdish forces, backed by US airstrikes, have been slowly but surely beating them back.

They may soon be testing their mettle against ISIS again. Reuters reported on January 3 that ISIS militants in the Qalamoun Mountains on the Syrian-Lebanese border are seeking to gain control of nearby villages on the Lebanese side.

Of course, Lebanon's security forces are in something of a pickle, now that they find themselves in a de facto alliance with the hashish lords. Speaking to Australia's SBS network, Col. Hassan Chamseddine, the Lebanese drug czar, tried to thread that tricky needle: "I think they're using Islamic State militants as an excuse to justify having weapons, but the real reason is to protect their hashish. But of course, if there's any

assault from outside of Lebanon they may use their weapons to help the army. But the Lebanese army has the official duty to defend the people."

### Mexican Cops Arrested in Reporter's Abduction

On January 8, Mexican authorities detained 13 members of a local police force in the state of Veracruz in connection with the abduction a week earlier of journalist Moisés Sánchez. The detained officers constituted a third of the police in the town of Medellín. State prosecutor Luis Ángel Bravo said the men are being held as an investigation is underway. Sánchez was taken from his home by unknown gunmen in civilian clothes. A body



Sánchez

was found, decapitated, on January 24. DNA testing confirmed it was that of the missing journalist. Sánchez edited a local weekly in Medellín, *La Unión*, with a reputation for fearless coverage of drug-related violence. The arrests came hours after a group of reporters interrupted a session of the Veracruz legislature in the state capital of Xalapa with placards reading "7 DAYS WITHOUT MOISÉS." Veracruz—the scene

of a three-way turf war among the Gulf Cartel, Los Zetas and the New Generation gang—is one of the most dangerous states in Mexico for journalists. Three reporters have been killed there since 2011, with Sánchez likely to prove the fourth.

### Parents of "Disappeared" Students Storm Army Base

Parents and fellow students of the 43 teachers'-college students who went missing in Mexico late last year staged a daring protest on January 12, breaching the perimeter of a military post at Iguala de la Independencia, in Guerrero state. At least seven were injured in the ensuing clash. The protesters say they were looking for the missing students, who were abducted in the area in September. The students, from the Rural Teachers' College in the town of Ayotzinapa, disappeared following a confrontation with the police in Iguala town. Investigators have since identified the remains of one, leaving 42 unaccounted for. Authorities say they believe corrupt local cops turned the students over to the Guerreros Unidos (United Warriors) narco gang. But activists accuse Mexico's government of covering up the involvement of the federal police and military in the ugly affair, which has sparked protests across Mexico. ✨

For updates on these and other stories, see Bill Weinberg's websites, [GlobalGarjaReport.com](http://GlobalGarjaReport.com) and [WorldWar4Report.com](http://WorldWar4Report.com).



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The artful twister

## I Don't Mean to Be Blunt

Sergio Garcia's disembodied hand sculptures are unsettling—and compelling. Garcia creates his startlingly life-like work with acrylic and oil paints on resin. The sculpted hands are performing a task without a persona to attach the action to, so bits of

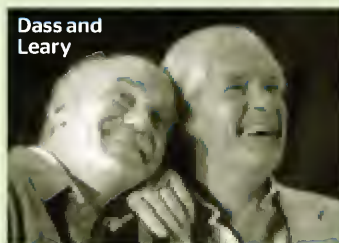
information are gleaned from details like an American eagle tattoo on the inner wrist of the blunt-roller, or the slightly orange skin tone and diamond ring on the manicured hands of a woman twisting a fatty. *It's Supposed to Make You Feel Something*, with the digits' glittery silver nail polish and dainty grasp of the rolling

paper, reflects the reality that marijuana has truly moved out of the shadows, and is now as common in a socialite's purse as expensive lip gloss and an iPhone. Garcia's work will soon be on display as part of the permanent collection of the Hash, Marijuana & Hemp Museum in Amsterdam and Barcelona. [sergiotheg.com](http://sergiotheg.com)

## A Famed Psychonaut Encounters the "Ultimate Taboo"

Timothy Leary and Richard Alpert, a.k.a. Ram Dass, are the focus of the new documentary *Dying to Know*. Nineteen years in the making, it started with an arranged meeting between the two former Harvard professors and longtime friends in 1995, when Leary found out that he was dying of cancer. It was the last time they were ever filmed together, and their fascinating conversation—about death, life, psychedelic exploration and the different turns their lives had taken—is peppered throughout the film.

Never-before-seen footage of the two visionaries, is accompanied by interviews with thought leaders like Dr. Andrew Weil, Ralph Metzner, Huston Smith and Peggy Mellon Hitchcock, to name a few. Robert Redford narrates the film: "The idea of anything that expands our thinking beyond conventional borders has always been of interest



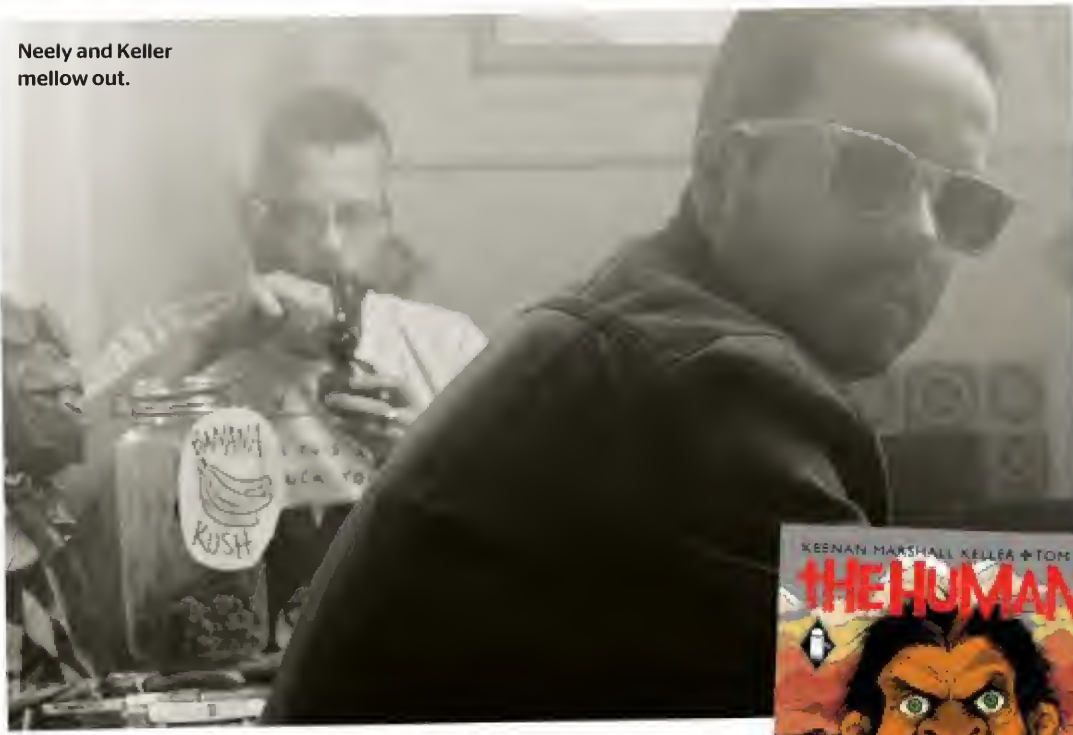
Dass and Leary

to me," the famed actor explains. "When I see the living, breathing portraits of these characters, especially the early archival footage, they are intelligent and smart. They were a kind of blessing considering how they have been caricatured in later times."

Naturally, Leary turned Alpert on to psychedelics. The two were still at Harvard at the time, and Leary, though yet to fully "Turn on, tune in and drop out," was always an independent thinker who would go on to become a symbol of the 1960s acid revolution. After the two left Harvard, they lived communally for several years before Alpert went to India to begin his spiritual transformation into the figure of Ram Dass. *Dying to Know* follows their journeys and reconstructions beautifully, especially as it explores their thoughts on what awaits us in death, dubbed by Leary as "the ultimate taboo." *Mary Ought Six*



Neely and Keller  
mellow out.



# Monkey Men

Meet the heads behind the new “ape-sploitation” comic *The Humans*. By J. Bennett

“**Fuck art school**—smoke weed.” So says cartoonist Tom Neely, who along with writer Keenan Marshall Keller recently launched *The Humans*, the new Image Comics title starring a biker gang that consists entirely of apes who fight, fuck and drink their way through Bakersfield, CA, in the 1970s, all while getting high as hell. “They smoke weed in every issue,” Keller assures *High Times*. “Actually, they do every drug imaginable.”

*The Humans*’ storyline has only just begun, but so far it’s covered everything from gang fights and exploding choppers to Vietnam flashbacks and monkey blowjobs. “We’ve actually gotten more blowback over the fact that it’s apes having sex rather than the sex itself,” says Neely, who is also one of the creators of the homoerotic underground-comics sensation *Henry & Glenn Forever*, which features punk icons Henry Rollins and Glenn Danzig living together as a couple. “There’s some

squeamishness about ape dicks.”

As a result, Neely and Keller have already heard a few possibly apocryphal reports of early *Humans* issues being pulled from the shelves. Not that they’re sweating it: Backlash equals publicity. “If people get mad about it, I hope they get *really* mad,” Keller laughs. “The madder they are, the better for us, possibly.”

Unsurprisingly, *The Humans* is rated M for “mature” under Image Comics’ own rating system. “There’s a lot of sex and violence,” Keller concedes. “But we didn’t want to censor our ideas just to get a bigger audience—especially when it’s usually a single panel in the context of a larger story.”

And it’s the larger story that Neely and Keller are focused on. “The *Humans* are a biker gang, which is all about personal freedom,” Keller points out. “That’s the overall theme of the story—a group of



individuals trying to seek out their own piece of the American Dream as an alternate reality to the actual American Dream.”

As a bonus, each issue of *The Humans* will include download codes for original songs inspired by the comic. The first two issues boasted tracks by LA stoner-punks Zig Zags, psych oddballs Smelly Tongues, San Diego metal wizards Goblin Cock, and Boss Kong, an ape-mask-wearing punk band that was formed as a musical extension of the comic.

Early reviews of *The Humans* have tagged it as *Easy Rider* meets *Planet of the Apes*, but Neely and Keller

**“The Humans smoke weed in every issue.”**

prefer the term “ape-sploitation.” As Keller explains, “*Easy Rider* meets *Planet of the Apes*’ gets the idea across, but it misses the point. There are serious aspects to the story, but it’s *pure* exploitation. There might be hidden political themes, but the *Humans* give two shits about politics. Their politics is living free—fucking, drinking and smoking.”

Speaking of smoking: Both Keller and Neely are confirmed *sativa* heads. “I smoke a lot, so I need the energy,” says Keller, who avoided getting a California medical marijuana card for years. “I was paranoid about being on the Man’s list when they make it illegal again, which I think is bound to happen in some places. But I finally just realized it’s too easy—instead of calling someone and being on their timetable, I can just go to a shop and buy it. I don’t know why I waited so long.”

Neely credits weed with helping him get over the post-art-school anxiety he had. “I know a lot of artists who come out of art school unable to make art, because it gets hammered into you that every mark you make on a piece of paper has to be the most brilliant thing ever,” he explains. “It takes the will out of you to just sit down and draw. It took me years to get over that, and weed helped a lot. Now I can have fun drawing monkeys on motorcycles all day, and I don’t give a fuck what my professors think.” ✨



## Freedom Rules

“There’s a lot of room for crossover between comics and music, but usually it’s a total failure because the decisions get made by a big company,” Neely observes. “With *The Humans*, we only choose music we dig.”



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Taggart and Pall get lit.



# #Phenomenons

Dynamic DJ duo The Chainsmokers are taking the global club scene by storm. *By Abdullah Saeed*

**Alex Pall and Drew Taggart**, collectively known as The Chainsmokers, have just returned to New York from a 7,000-person DJ gig in Las Vegas—and they're exhausted. Before that show, they spent months touring Europe and Asia, frequently playing back-to-back dates in different countries. On Taggart's couch, the two share a joint and try to recount the madness. "With all the drinking, no sleep and not eating regularly, you need something to counter that shit," Taggart says. "Something that's not harming your body or pushing it in another direction. We smoke a lot more now just medicinally."

In early 2014, The Chainsmokers released a song called "#Selfie," which became

a viral hit just as the popularity of selfies was hitting an international peak. The track begins with a party girl's inane chatter in a club bathroom—complaining about the DJ's selection, her current crush and other girls. With the words "Let me take a selfie," a wild club beat drops. That simple, infectious moment has earned "#Selfie" more than 300 million YouTube views and cemented The Chainsmokers as a global phenomenon. And even though the notion of selfies verges on passé in America and Europe, it's just hitting its stride in the even more populous Internet-connected regions of Asia. That's what took the guys to India last summer, where they played a slew of big shows and smoked

fat globs of hash to battle the effects of over-partying.

As it happens, the inspiration for "#Selfie" was less a *high-dea* and more the result of drunken shenanigans. "A lot of songs will have something like 'Put your hands up' before the drop," Pall explains. "When we thought of the '#Selfie' idea, it was like, 'That's so ridiculous—who would actually *do* that?'" But it turns out that becoming the guys who actually would was the best career decision they ever made.

**"With all the drinking, no sleep and not eating regularly, you need something to counter that shit... We smoke a lot more now just medicinally."**

By the end of their joint, Taggart is blessed with a stoned insight that might explain the massive number of hits for the "#Selfie" video, which features a barrage of what seems like thousands of pictures collected from a submission website. The video ends with a simple message: "Didn't see your selfie? Watch the video again."

Taggart excitedly explains his theory to Pall: "This might be a high thought, but I think people thought they could go to the site and send us their selfie, and it would go in the video eventually."

Pall takes up the notion: "So maybe people were just watching it over and over waiting to see themselves in the video, even though it would never show up in there."

The two Chainsmokers crack up at the idea that their initial success might have been rooted in a simple online misunderstanding. "If that's true," Taggart says as their laughter trails off, "we fooled the shit out of the world."

And they might have never realized it if they weren't so stoned at that moment. ✨



## Joint Lag

The Chainsmokers have been touring the world with their hits "#Selfie" and "Kanye," and sampling cannabis offerings from India to British Columbia. We caught them back at home in New York in a post-travel haze.



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## Torches and Pitchforks

### Be afraid of the virtual angry mob.

**Public shaming** has come a long way. In the past, the unlucky offender was sentenced to the stocks, where he or she would be humiliatingly locked in place for public display. Today, according to Jon Ronson's excellent new book *So You've Been Publicly Shamed*, the Internet has taken the place of the pillory, and judgment is handed down by the masses through social media.

Ronson, the author of bestsellers like *The Psychopath Test* and *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, explores the new public-shaming dynamic by examining several recent high-profile incidents of communal punishment. But while it's interesting to learn the exact combination of indiscretion and happenstance that led to the shamings of such now-infamous offenders as Justine Sacco (of the Africa/AIDS tweet), Jonah Lehrer (of the fabricated Bob Dylan quotes) and Lindsey Stone (of the obscene-gesture pic at Arlington National Cemetery), the book is a must-read for its honest investigation of how we arrived at this new system of social-media "justice."

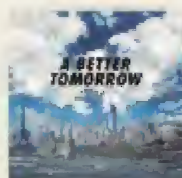


**So You've Been Publicly Shamed**  
Jon Ronson  
(Riverhead Books)

*Shamed* is a cautionary tale that should strike fear into the heart of anyone who's ever posted an off-color comment online. However, the book also holds a mirror up to the virtual lynch mob that condemns these errant tweeters with such self-righteous fury, in an attempt to understand what causes otherwise normal persons to become so punitive—and so very ugly.

Ronson's investigation also leads him to a question that most overlook: What happens to a person after they've been publicly shamed? His assessments of the damage done to victims of a social-media feeding frenzy and their efforts to recover make for the book's most engaging moments. And Ronson—endlessly fascinated by the human condition—makes for an excellent tour guide through this terrain. *Mike Hughes*

## MUSIC RECOMMENDATIONS



**The Wu-Tang Clan**  
*A Better Tomorrow*  
(Warner Bros. Records)

The new Wu is a family reunion: Rakkwon is crushing egos in the kitchen, ODB reps Brooklyn from beyond, and RZA still brings the ruckus. Here, the Wu are elder statesmen assessing their own legacy and our troubled times. Method Man couldn't tell you how losing felt, but he isn't impervious

to loss—and tracks like "40th Street Black/We Will Fight" channel his headline-ripped rage into marching-band-trumpeted pleas for unity. But never fear: The Wu show they still know how to chop heads Shaolin-style on bangers like "Keep Watch" and the slick "Ron O'Neal." *Ira Gamerman*

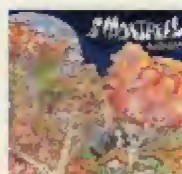


**Viet Cong**  
*Viet Cong*  
(Jagjaguwar/Flemish Eye)

Canadian rock band Viet Cong's eponymous debut album launches an auditory assault, transporting listeners to a world where post-punk meets the future. The militarized drone of opener "Newspaper Spoons" marches you down a percussive, feedback-heavy corridor before dropping

you into the Eno-like "March of Progress." Matt Flegel's lilting voice carries the disillusioned chorus through to the first single, "Continental Shelf," where things get psychedelic. These Pied Pipers of post-punk are sure to lure millennials to a new page in the story of sound.

*Rebekah Harris*

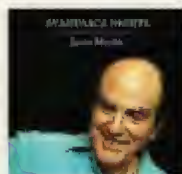


**Of Montreal**  
*Aureate Gloom*  
(Polyvinyl Records)

of Montreal overlord Kevin Barnes hit the gritty streets of NYC to hustle inspiration from sources like the band Television and the Chelsea district. Barnes's aural actualization is spiked with an edge on "Empyrean Abattoir," while "Last Rites at the Jane Hotel" serves as *Gloom's* thematic

centerpiece. The soothing crash of "Virgilian Lots" anticipates the recent wave of civil unrest: "The pigs are taking shots at the mourners on the hill." Barnes also hints at his stormy marriage on the complex "Monolithic Egress": "No, you never did me wrong / We've just been together too long." *Mark Miller*

## BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



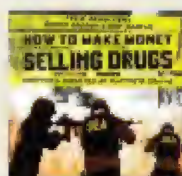
**Ayahuasca Nights**  
Jason Martin  
(Chacruna/Luna Station Press)

Certain eyes and minds will garner volumes from *Ayahuasca Nights*. However, it was written mainly for those with an interest not only in powerful psychedelics, but also in past-life regression, hypnosis, chakras, yoga and other alternative therapies.

Martin aptly summarizes

his own case: "The medicine has opened me up to the wisdom of the universe. Do I know it all? No. Am I enlightened? To a degree. Can I channel the healing energy of beings from the spirit world? Yes, but only when they feel it is appropriate. I am still on the path." *Mary Ought Six*

## FILM RECOMMENDATIONS



**How to Make Money Selling Drugs**  
Matthew Cooke  
(Tribeca Films)

This documentary kicks off by promising to give you the know-how to ascend the drug-dealing ladder in a few easy steps. Advice comes from corner hustlers to major importers, with subjects including Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson, a high-school dealer in Beverly Hills, and legendary crack kingpin

"Freeway" Rick Ross. After presenting these fascinating narratives, however, the film veers into a wide-ranging indictment of the War on Drugs. We hear from "famous freedom advocates" like Woody Harrelson and Susan Sarandon. I'd rather hear it from those in the trenches. *Fritz Meier*



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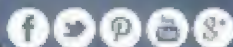
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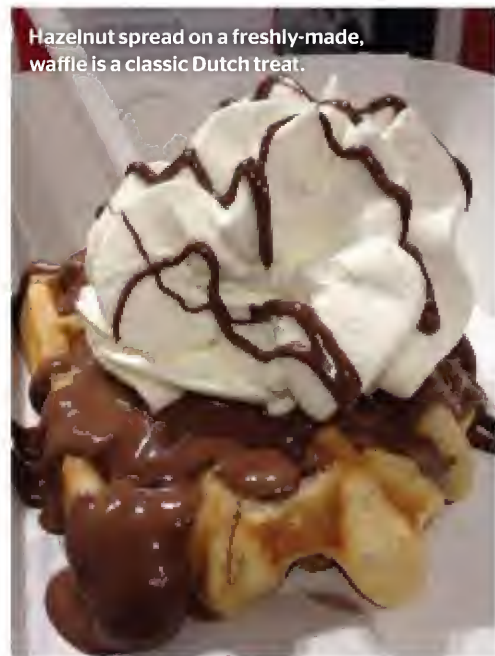
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four people, but it's moving into a bigger kitchen in anticipation of skyrocketing growth. Indeed, Madame Munchie macarons can already be found in over 30 dispensaries from Sacramento to San Diego.

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conducted extensive marketing research before choosing to medicate macarons. "It's the most difficult cookie in the world," Coreen adds, due to the technical skills required to work with the meringue.

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Elise McDonough

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In a small saucepan, whisk together the cream and hazelnut butter. Bring this to a simmer and remove from heat. Pour the mixture over chocolate chips and let sit for three to four minutes.

With a whisk, begin mixing the chocolate and flavored cream, starting in the center

and moving slowly in a circular motion toward the edge of the bowl. Do this until all the chocolate chips are completely dissolved and the mixture is evenly combined.

At this point, add the room-temperature cannabutter and hazelnut extract. Continue whisking until all the butter is melted and evenly combined. Cover the mixture with plastic wrap, making sure the top of the chocolate is touching the plastic to prevent a skin from forming. Refrigerate at least one hour.

Before eating, remove from the fridge for at least an hour to allow the spread to return to room temperature. *Stones 10.*





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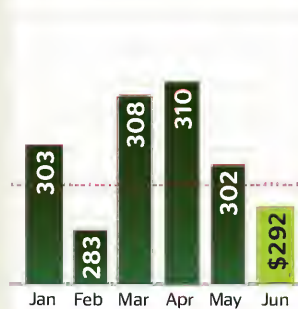
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Minnesota	St. Paul	Blue Dream	375
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Missouri	St. Louis	Super Silver Haze	325
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New York	Brooklyn New York	Girl Scout Cookies Deadhead OG	360 400
North Carolina	Raleigh	Blue Dream	350
Ohio	Cincinnati	Headband	290
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Sweden	Stockholm	Amnesia Haze	\$380

MARKET ANALYSIS

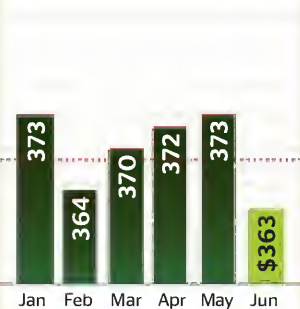
Prices by the ounce

Index Watch: While the Mids and Schwag indices finished June above their previous month's average, the US Price and Kind indices both dropped \$10 from May. At \$363 per ounce, the Kind Index reached its lowest average price since December 2014 (\$362).

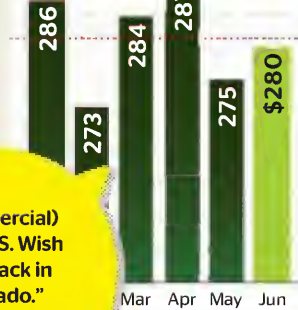
**US Price Index**  
 YTD Average: \$300



**Kind Index**  
 YTD Average: \$369



**Mids Index**  
 YTD Average: \$281



**Schwag Index**  
 YTD Average: \$102



**(Commercial)**  
 "Utter BS. Wish I was back in Colorado."  
 -Nashville, TN

**(Purple Urkel)**  
 "Beautiful lime-green and purple buds with vibrant orange hairs."  
 -Tulsa, OK

High Times wants to know what you're smoking. Submit your strain information including location and price by the ounce to [thmq@hightimes.com](mailto:thmq@hightimes.com), or tweet us (#THMQ).



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16-18 Gauge Steel, Brushed & Polished  
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This revolutionary series of LED grow units will produce the biggest and best yields while consuming approximately half the electricity and producing virtually no heat.

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jmorales@sorbentsystems.com



1



3



2



4



## Hot Products

What's new for cannabis cultivators and connoisseurs.

### 1 Stealth Vaping

\$250

[vaporcup.com](http://vaporcup.com)

If you're searching for a discreet way to vaporize your flowers and oils, look no further than the Vapor Cup Deluxe, a stealthy vaporizer disguised as a travel mug. The stainless-steel unit heats quickly, and the digital display keeps the temperature where you want it. You can pre-load the straws for later use, and the removable heating chamber makes it easy to clean.

### 2 Wicked Cool

\$1.99 - \$26.99

[rawthentic.com](http://rawthentic.com)

The tastiest bong hits are ones that aren't polluted with butane or sulfur. We love lighting our bowls using Raw Hemp Wick, from the same people who brought us our favorite unbleached rolling papers. The wick is natural hemp string coated with beeswax, and comes in 13-foot and 3.3-foot sections. Simply tilt the lit string up or down to control the flame.

### 3 One-Hitter Quitter

\$45 - \$60

[dugoutdynasty.com](http://dugoutdynasty.com)

The new Dugout Dynasty takes the classic wooden one-hitter we all know and love to the next level. Proudly made in the USA from nickel-chrome-plated aluminum, this dugout will last a lifetime and beyond. A cut-out area in the back gives you a place to break up your flowers, and a pin-locking system ensures that it won't swing open on its own.

### 4 Necessary Nutes

Prices vary

[advancednutrients.com](http://advancednutrients.com)

One of the most common nutrient deficiencies that plants experience is a lack of calcium and magnesium. The newly released Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra from Advanced Nutrients solves this issue uniquely, with the specific needs of the cannabis plant in mind, by delivering a full set of micro-nutrients as well as 20 necessary amino acids. There's also a money-back guarantee.

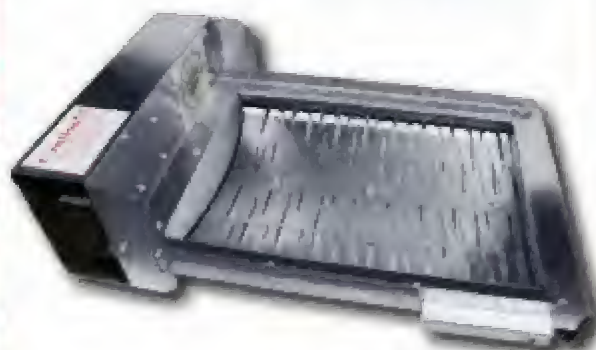
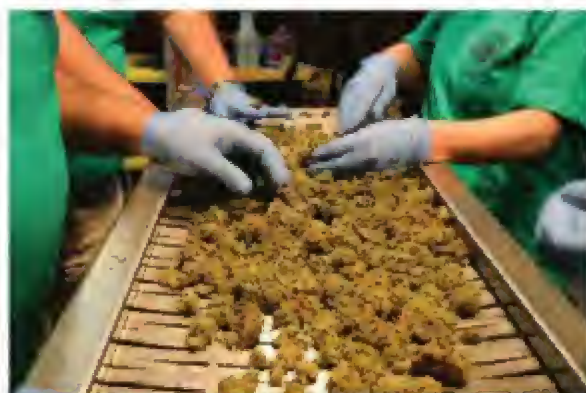


# ULTRA TRIMMER

- Food grade stainless steel stationary guards
- Slots are tapered to gauge the size of your bud
- Cola cutter 1/2" diameter runs your branch through in seconds
- Reversible from concave to convex
- Aircraft Aluminum Frame for strength and lightweight mobility
- Adjustable speed controller with heavy duty motor



CALIFORNIA CANNABIS  
INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



Tumbling bud in round cylindrical devices destroys trichomes. Trimming wet bud with fast spinning fan blades is just plain stupid. Your product should hang and cure for at least 10 to 14 days in a dark, cool, dry and well ventilated area. The way it's been done for thousands of years. [Fans help in this day and age]

Scissors used to be the only way to trim dry bud with out destroying trichomes. It is very time consuming. Ergo a true set of mechanical scissors for dry bud, but better - scissors don't cut when they spring back. Ultra Trimmer cuts both ways and doesn't stop until you turn it off.

With its slow moving parts [NO VIBRATION] it simply snips the bud, [ADJUSTABLE SPEED] at 232 snips per revolution and many buds at a time. Once the bud has been snipped it will not snip any more bud material until the bud is moved. The Ultra Trimmer can trim 4 ounces in 5 minutes - without destroying trichomes! We make larger devices as well. These larger devices are custom made to order and can handle processing 12-18 lbs per HOUR!

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[www.UltraTrimmer.com](http://www.UltraTrimmer.com)

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Patented

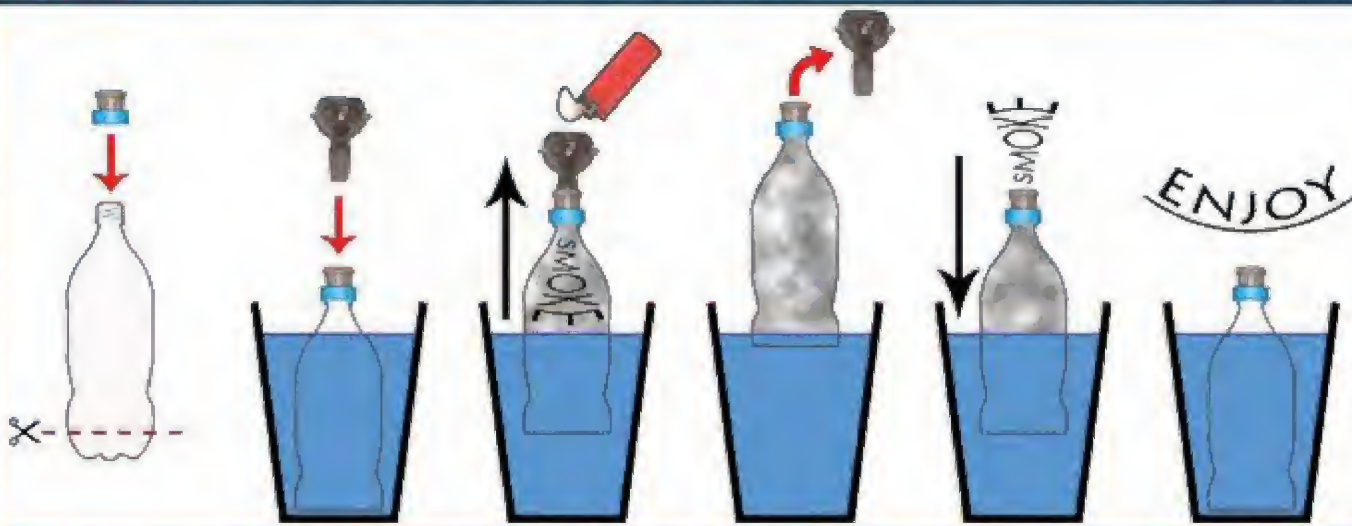
HEAT RESISTANT UP TO 500°F!!!

## FACTS & BENEFITS

- > BUILT FROM KITCHEN GRADE SILICONE AND PREMIUM GLASS
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- > THE SILICONE CAP ACTS LIKE A HEAT SHIELD TO PROTECT THE PLASTIC BOTTLE FROM EMITTING HARMFUL TOXINS WHEN HEATED THAT WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE INHALED!
- > FITS ANY STANDARD 18MM GLASS ON GLASS BOWL PIECE OR ATTACHMENT
  - ALREADY OWN A 14MM GLASS ON GLASS BOWL PIECE?
    - + JUST USE OUR GLASS ON GLASS SIZE ADAPTER! (SOLD SEPARATELY)
- > BECAUSE YOU DO NOT SUCK ON IT (NO ORAL CONTACT!):
  - + THE SPREAD OF DISEASE AND SICKNESS IS GREATLY REDUCED
  - + INHALING AT NEAR ZERO PRESSURE (BREATHING NORMALLY), AS OPPOSED TO SUCKING THROUGH A STRAW, PIPE HOLE, OR OBSTRUCTION, MAKES THIS DEVICE THE FIRST THING YOU ARE ABLE TO SMOKE OUT OF AFTER HAVING YOUR WISDOM TEETH REMOVED.
- > SMALL, CONCEALABLE, AND TRANSPORTABLE
- > NO MORE INHALING ASH OR DIRTY WATER BECAUSE OF GRAVITY FILTRATION!
- > MUCH EASIER TO USE, AND SAFER, THAN A HOMEMADE COUNTERFEIT.
- > EASY CLEAN-UP! WHEN THE BOTTLE GETS DIRTY, JUST GET A NEW BOTTLE! (PLEASE RECYCLE)
- > **CAUTION!** THIS DEVICE PRODUCES RAPID REPETITIVE HIGHLY-CONCENTRATED SMOKE HITS!



HOW TO WORKS



STEP 1 (PREPARATION)

STEP 2 (START)

STEP 3

STEP 4

STEP 5

STEP 6 (FINISH/REPEAT)

FOR THE FULL, RIDICULOUSLY IN-DEPTH, OPERATIONAL GUIDE, AND SECRET TIPS AND TRICKS MANUAL, VISIT OUR WEBSITE BELOW TO SEE JUST HOW TRULY BENEFICIAL SMOKING OUT OF The Gravity Key REALLY IS!



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The Chiefin Reef provided sheets of concentrates for the dabbing crowd.



The Metal Mulisha staged high-flyin' motocross shows each day.



Stoners followed the vapor trail to Cloud V pens.



# So High in SoCal

Thousands of marijuana lovers gather to celebrate the gains we've made.

By Danny Danko



Attendees packed the Saturday night Cup concert.

**“We are so lucky!”** That was my first thought as I walked onto the scene at the Fourth Annual High Times Medical Cannabis Cup in San Bernardino, CA. After the crackdown on our flagship Cup in Amsterdam this past November, we were rejoicing in the fact that we can now celebrate our love of marijuana here at home. And what a celebration it was...

Day one began with a bang, as the Metal Mulisha Fitz Army performed freestyle motocross jumps for the amped-up crowd. Sponsored by Bhogart Extractors, motorcycle riders Jimmy Fitzpatrick, Todd Potter and Julian Dussseau flew their motorbikes over a massive gap between launch and landing ramps, to the delight of Cup attendees.

The weather was amazing as I headed

for the massive outdoor medicating area. At first glance, it was a bit overwhelming—with over 400 booths to visit, how could anyone see it all? I wandered over to the Vader Extracts/Greenwolf LA stage to find a huge crowd gathered. MC Adam III was busy giving out tons of freebies, while performers like Lil' Debbie, Funk Doobiest and members of D-12 rocked the stage.

With two different seminar rooms operating as well, attendees had many options for enlightenment, including cultivation panels, talks on how to get started in the marijuana business, and even a group of veterans who spoke about how pot helps them with their physical injuries and PTSD. Activists also discussed the efforts to legalize recreational cannabis in California in 2016.

I had a chance to speak with longtime



As usual, Nexus Glass rigs were a hot item.





At first glance, it was a bit overwhelming—with over 400 booths to visit, how could anyone see it all?

- 1) Cultivation superstar Jorge Cervantes looks over the Cup entries.
- 2) Christopher “Kid” Reid met his fans at the Loud Seeds booth.
- 3) B-Real prepares before taking the Cup stage.
- 4) Natures Nectar Farms filled their booth with fresh buds.
- 5) The Cali Connection booth drew crowds looking for quality seeds.

marijuana-law reform advocate Debby Goldsberry, who assured me, “California will legalize in 2016!” She touted the Coalition for Cannabis Policy Reform as a uniting force that provided a wide umbrella for the various groups. Activist Liana Held was a bit more reluctant to make any predictions: “Things are just so fractured right now,” she said. But Diane Goldstein from LEAP (Law Enforcement Against Prohibition) believes that “one way or another, it will go legal.”

At 4:20, I was privileged to be the guest of honor at the Super VIP Meet and Greet, where I got to hang out and smoke with some interesting attendees. As we did some dabs, I learned a bit about their lives and what brought them to the Cup. Finding a quiet place to puff and chat at the Cannabis Cup isn’t always easy, so I welcomed this new addition to our event schedule.



5





# HIGH PROFITS

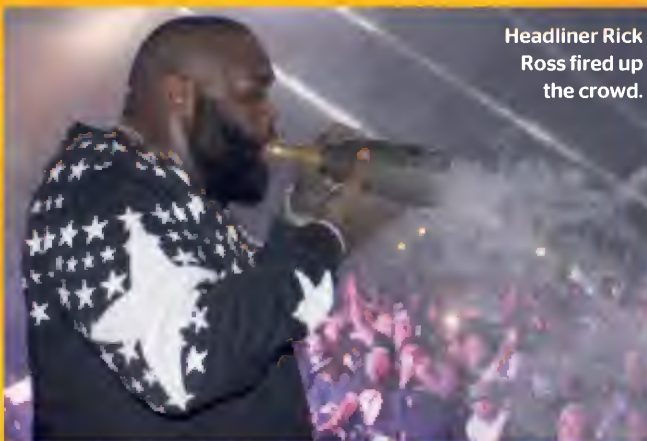


PREMIERES  
SUNDAY  
APRIL 19 10<sup>P</sup> ET/PT





The body painted hostesses of Kushie Kush



Headliner Rick Ross fired up the crowd.



Vader Extracts grabbed first place for Best Booth, Best Product and Best Glass.

Pretty soon it was time to prepare for the big concert. A DJ warmed up the crowd before B-Real took the stage to perform Cypress Hill stoner classics like "Hits From the Bong" and "Dr. Greenthumb." Next, headliner Rick Ross appeared to thunderous applause as the crowd danced to hits like "Hustlin'" and "I'm a Boss." At the climax of the show, Ross and B-Real shared a massive blunt made from a champagne bottle with the crowd, as attendees and photographers jostled to take pics of the revelry.

After the frenzied pace of day one, day two provided a bit more of an opportunity to visit the many booths in the medicating area. Notables included the booths set up by the Cali Connection, TGA (Team Green Avenger) with Subcool and MzJill, the Cookies SF family, and the Source Genetics. It was great to see live pot plants in the various booths as well.

Several companies combined forces to set up massive areas, including a booth collaboration by OG Ras-kal, Silica Glass, TLC and Gold Coast, where attendees could take dabs in comfort with some of the best extract artists around. I wandered over to

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STAX are the prime example of functional scientific glassware.



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[420SCIENCE.COM/STAX](http://420SCIENCE.COM/STAX)



Bhang Chocolates for some delicious edibles and then stopped by Lord and Sterling for a cup of medicated coffee that helped me recharge and launch myself back into the fray.

Plenty of grow equipment was on display, including some amazing micro-growing units from Cabinet Grow. The Advanced Nutrients booth proved popular as well, and several new LED manufacturers showed off their new lighting technology.

I was also able to stop by the booths of some cannabusinesses that would turn out to be winners later that night. Moxie Seeds and Nexus Glass were busy showing off their award-winning products. Future big winner Hashy Larry from Dabbalicious shared his incredible concentrates with fellow vendors and attendees, who marveled at the

consistency and potency of his products.

As the sun began to set on another beautiful Southern California day, the anticipation was building for the awards show, where we'd finally give out Cannabis Cups to the deserving. What a thrill it was to stand onstage, open the envelopes and greet the winners at the exact moment that their lives changed forever.

"Thank you!" the overwhelmed winners always tell us, and I always reply: "You earned it!"—because, while it's their hard work and pursuit of excellence that we reward, it's the entire marijuana industry that benefits from their diligence. And for that, we're eternally grateful. We're also truly lucky to be a part of making Cannabis Cup dreams come true.

And so, without further ado, the winners are...



Moxie Seeds celebrates a third-place win for Best Hybrid.



Greenwolf LA and Kush Company took the Cup for Best Indica.















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# Cannabis Cup Results

**Best Booth**

**1st Place** - Vader Extracts  
**2nd Place** - B-Real / Dr. Greenthumb  
**3rd Place** - Apothecary Collective and 420 Warehouse

**Best Product**

**1st Place** - Bongdom, by Vader Extracts  
**2nd Place** - Kingpen, by Greenwolf LA  
**3rd Place** - Kurupt's Moonrocks, by Kurupt's Moonrock

**Best Glass**

**1st Place** - Vaderade, by Evol Glass  
**2nd Place** - Nexus Glass Halo, by Nexus Glass  
**3rd Place** - Platinum Barrel Recycler, by Pulse Glass x Big Pizzle

**Best Vaporizer**

**1st Place** - 710KingPen,

by KingPen & Greenwolf LA  
**2nd Place** - Cloud V, by Cloud V  
**3rd Place** - OG Pen, by Moxie Seeds & Extracts

**Best CBD Edible**

**1st Place** - 350 mg CBD Fresh Mint Breath Spray, by Bhang Chocolate  
**2nd Place** - 120 mg Canapa CBD Pizza Sauce, by Summit Health Remedies  
**3rd Place** - B.A.M.F. CBD Bar, by the W.E.E.D. Studio City

**Best CBD Concentrate**

**1st Place** - Ringo's Gift Super CBD Premium CO<sub>2</sub> Oil, by POP Naturals with WCHC  
**2nd Place** - Ringo's Gift #3, by Greenwolf LA with Loud Pack Extracts  
**3rd Place** - CBD Simple CO<sub>2</sub> Extractor, by Cannavest

**Best Non-Solvent Hash**

**1st Place** - Blissful Wizard, by Incognigrow Farms

**2nd Place** - Cookies and Cream Cubantech Dry-Sift, by Exotic Genetix  
**3rd Place** - Gluekie Monster Fresh Frozen Whole Plant True 73u, by Trichome Heavy Extracts with the Source Genetics

**Best Sativa**

**1st Place** - Mango Tango, by Elemental Seeds  
**2nd Place** - Loud Berry Flower, by Loud Seeds SL  
**3rd Place** - Tangie, by Dr. Greenthumb

**Best Indica**

**1st Place** - Kosher Kush, by Greenwolf LA with Kush Company  
**2nd Place** - Lorax OG, by Lorax Labs with the CanaSutra Collective  
**3rd Place** - Dr. K's Paris OG Kush, by the Cali Natural Collective

**Best Hybrid**

**1st Place** - Wellness OG, by the W.E.E.D. Studio City  
**2nd Place** - Orange Cookies, by the TLC Collective  
**3rd Place** - 2010 Grizzly Genetics, by Grizzly

Genetics with the Patients Premium Collective

**Best Sativa Concentrate**

**1st Place** - Red Dragon Budder, by Dabblicious Extracts  
**2nd Place** - Space Jack, by Apothecary Collective with Imperial Extracts  
**3rd Place** - Pineapple Lemonade Live Resin, by Greenwolf LA with Loud Pack Extractions and Dabblicious Extracts

**Best Indica Concentrate**

**1st Place** - Lemon Walker OG, by Gold Coast Extracts  
**2nd Place** - Lemon Walker OG Budder, by the Gold Coast Collection  
**3rd Place** - Crown OG Nug Run, by Pissing Excellence

**Best Hybrid Concentrate**

**1st Place** - Lemon Bananas Budder, by Dabblicious Extracts  
**2nd Place** - Banangie Kosher, by Greenwolf LA with Dabblicious Extracts  
**3rd Place** - Lemon Cookies, by Moxie Seeds and Extracts

**Best Edible**

**1st Place** - Reef Jerky by Badfish Extracts / Healthy Healing  
**2nd Place** - 50 mg Crème Brûlée, by Beezle's Creamery with Beezle Extracts  
**3rd Place** - Cali High Thai'd Ice Cream, by Beezle's Creamery

**Best Topical**

**1st Place** - Honey Pot Bear Balm, by Pure Joy Collective  
**2nd Place** - Om Edibles Medicated Lavender Epsom Salts, by Om-Grown All-Female Collective  
**3rd Place** - Sextiva Vaginal Sexual Enhancement Oil, by Innovative Extractions

**Best CBD Flower**

**1st Place** - V.C.D.C., by Moxie Seeds & Extracts  
**2nd Place** - Vitamin CBD, by Growers Guild  
**3rd Place** - Vegan Buddha Milagro, by Greenwolf LA with Vegan Buddha



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PRODUCE BIGGER YIELDS**

**Voodoo Juice**—Expand root mass by up to 117% and increase nutrient absorption by up to 700%! Watch your plants suck up energy and nutrients like crazy for vigorous growth—and ultimately bigger yields.

**Piranha**—Expand the surface area of your plant roots by up to 75%. Help your crops obtain as much as 86% more nitrogen, 234% more phosphorus, and 75% more potassium. This means heightened grow, greater leaf area, more bud production, better bloom structure, and increased weight. Piranha Liquid also seeks and destroys harmful pathogens and molds, while strengthening crop resistance to stress.

**Tarantula**—Its beneficial bacteria inoculate the roots, safeguarding them by competing with and warding off harmful bacteria that can infect your plants. Reduces tissue damage from heavy fertilizer salts. Increases plant grow and yields by releasing grow and bloom cofactors and aiding chlorophyll, so your high-intensity lighting is more effective.

**Microbial Munch**—Maximize your microbes! Support, strengthen and maximize the benefits from all the beneficial microbes and fungi. It's a "superfood"—exactly what your plants need to transform into bigger, stronger, more resilient, and more beneficial creatures. In short, it's like putting them on steroids.

BUD AID  
TRIBE



**"INSURANCE"  
FOR YOUR  
GROW ROOM**

**Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra**—If you're using base nutrients made by other companies, your crops could be deficient, leading to stunted growth and yellowing leaves. You can prevent that with Sensi Cal-Mag Xtra, the only calcium and magnesium supplement formulated with the exact Ca, Mg, and Fe ratios unique to the high-value plants we grow.

**Revive**—Guaranteed to rejuvenate your crops if they get into nutrient-deficiency trouble—which can happen if something unexpected and beyond your control occurs...or you're using inferior nutrients. Save plants in distress by adding it to your nutrient solution or using it as a foliar spray at the first sign of trouble. These rejuvenating substances flood the plant with healing nutrition. Use it at the first sign of trouble and your precious plants will get their best chance not only to survive, but thrive!

BUD POTENCY  
& STALK  
STRENGTHENERS  
TRIBE

**GROW MORE GLISTENING,  
STICKY, RESIN-GLAZED,  
TRICHOME-COVERED BUDS  
AND STURDIER, STRONGER  
STALKS AND BRANCHES!**



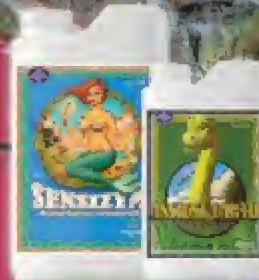
**Nirvana**—Guarantees bigger yields and bigger, denser, heavier buds... while driving your plants at a faster metabolic rate. Experience increased yield, quality, aroma, color, essential oils, and resin production faster than you could have imagined without using synthetic nutrients.

**Rhino Skin**—Increases trichomes and essential oils to more potent harvests. Your crops will stand up straighter and support bulkier, heavier buds. You'll get big, sticky, potent harvests with greater market value.

**Bud Factor X**—Triggers systemic acquired resistance (SAR) within plants to produce markedly higher amounts of essential oils and terpenoids which directly benefit taste, aroma, and resin production... giving you higher-quality crops with greater market value.

**B-52**—Amplifies overall plant metabolism, promotes strong root development, boosts grow and helps your crops fight off stresses such as intense light, cold weather, ozone, drought, and salinity.

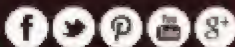
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SUBSTRATE  
SUPERCHARGERS  
TRIBE



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OVERLOOKED  
AREA FOR  
GETTING POUNDS OF BUDS**

**Sensizym**—Specifically formulated enzymes that scour the root zone, removing debris and eradicating disease by "recycling" it into usable carbohydrates that fuel bud growth and boost yields. Growers report it also decomposes root zone debris so well, you can often reuse growing media such as rockwool and coco coir for another crop lifecycle—saving you money!

**Ancient Earth Organic**—A rich combination of humic and fulvic acid that will help transform your growing medium into a richer, healthier, more vibrant foundation for your crops while pumping up their roots. Also stabilize the pH and optimize nutrient delivery. Helps plants withstand disease, drought, and other environmental stresses.



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about what Advanced Nutrients  
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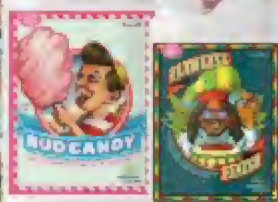
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Hundreds of customers daily choose their medicine at the top-flight dispensary Elemental Wellness.

# An Element of Success

In the San Francisco Bay Area, the cannabis industry is flourishing—and as with any industry, the best companies will rise to the top. It's an Elemental fact of life!

—Story & Photos by Dan Skye—



Derik Howard at his greenhouse in the Santa Cruz mountains.

**A**ccording to the teachings of Ayurveda, the 5,000-year-old system of holistic medicine that originated in India, five elements make up the universe: air, earth, water, fire and ether. The first four are pretty easy to understand, but the fifth is a puzzler: “Ether” is defined simultaneously as the source of all matter and the space in which it exists.

Confused? Maybe this explanation by modern Ayurvedic scholars will clear things up: Ether is characterized by its unseen stored potential and its nonresistance to what is true.

Perhaps that's the element Derik Howard was thinking of in 2010 when he co-founded Elemental Wellness, a thriving medical cannabis collective based in San Jose, CA. As with ether, he observed an unseen stored potential in the medical scene.

“I'd been a medical grower in Washington. About 10 years ago, I came down to California and saw the dispensaries, and I thought that this was the best thing I've ever seen,” he recalls. “Then, about the same time Obama took office, the Supreme Court handed down a couple of decisions reinforcing the principle that states have the right to self-govern. I felt it was a prime time to make a move.”

Derik and his partners took a weekend of classes at Oaksterdam University's Los Angeles branch, then drove north, visiting dispensaries along the way. “We saw dingy, dirty places with scary security—big, tough-looking guys,”





Keeping the medicine free from contaminants is a top priority.



San Fernando Valley Kush, a popular strain Elemental Wellness strain.

Five years after opening its doors, Elemental Wellness has become one of California's most respected cannabis providers.

Derik says. “Not very friendly, not very warm.”

But the last place they visited was Harborside Health Center, a progressive dispensary in Oakland offering top medicine and a variety of patient services. Derik remembers thinking: “Here’s somebody who gets it.”

He and his partners put together a team, but after several potential business licenses fell through in San Francisco, they turned their attention to San Jose. Now, five years after opening its doors, Elemental Wellness has become one of California’s most respected cannabis providers, hailed as the “Best Alternative Medicine Collective” in *Metro’s* “Best of Silicon Valley” issue. It now serves hundreds of customers a day, giving them access to some truly exceptional buds and free holistic services.

Over the past two and a half years, three separate Elemental strains have won medals at High Times Cannabis Cups for the highest level of CBD: Cannatonic, Jamaican Lion and Johnny’s Tonic. Yogi Diesel has taken second place for Best *Sativa*, while True OG has been honored at multiple Cups and remains Elemental’s top seller. Indeed, Elemental’s True OG was chosen as the High Times Strain of the Year for 2014.

In the Santa Cruz Mountains, Derik oversees a 3,600-square-foot greenhouse built by Envirotech, outfitted with a fully automatic light-deprivation system that runs year-round and produces four annual harvests—about 120 to 150 pounds per cycle, sold exclusively through Elemental Wellness. A time-controlled automatic drip-line system, fed by a Dosatron, nourishes the plants, and an Agam dehumidification/heating unit lowers energy consumption by enabling the greenhouse operation to remain closed while maintaining healthy humidity levels.

Pro-Mix #8 is Elemental’s soil of choice. For nutrients, it’s Lucas Formula, which Derik describes as “cutting edge,” while spring-fed creeks serve as the water source. “We don’t treat it for anything,” Derik says. “We don’t worry about the salinity content or the hardness of the water. We don’t do any pH control or anything. We just flow it into the Dosatron.”

One might think the Bay Area’s foggy climate would impact the gardens, but Derik assures us that isn’t the case. “We get a dual climate—the fog that rolls over us is messy, but by noon it’s usually clear and dried out. On this side of the mountains specifically, we get 300 days a year of sunny, 70-degree weather. Humidity stays very low during the day—40 to 45 percent.

But even though the greenhouse gives you indoor quality, you still encounter a certain level of contaminants that you need to control: dust from the outside, dust from the pots inside. Our bug problems are minimal—some aphids and ants in the summertime—but we control them with natural, certified organic sprays.”

These days, Elemental is expanding, though not always by choice. “The city recently implemented a huge ordinance, Title 20—it controls the location of dispensaries through zoning,” Derik explains. “Plus it implemented Title 6, which requires vertical integration... not necessarily a bad thing for us, but the changes are difficult.”

As a result of the ordinances, Elemental will soon open a 16,000-square-foot facility devoted to retail, processing and human services, with a separate 40,000-foot indoor grow facility located on adjacent property. “It’s been very nerve-racking,” Derik admits. “We’ll be paying three times the rent for the same space that our dispensary currently occupies. We’ve spent a lot of time and money on development—but the city government has forced us to move and pay extraordinary fees. I feel we’re being taken advantage of.”

Most likely they are. As the legal cannabis industry finds its footing,



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bureaucratic interference has been common in every state. Whether it's zoning, exorbitant taxes or the mindless accounting of every gram from seed to sale (as in Colorado), cannabis entrepreneurs are often at the mercy of seemingly whimsical changes in regulations.

But the Elemental vision has hardly been impeded. In fact, two years ago the company expanded its reach by starting Elemental Seeds, entering a partnership with two renowned Cannabis Cup-winning Montana breeders in order to capitalize on its award-winning genetics

**“We need to learn how to deal with the changes that are coming our way in a responsible manner.”**

and develop new strains. (See the sidebar for more.)

Asked whether he believes cannabis will one day gain acceptance in US agriculture, Derik responds: “Absolutely. Because once cannabis is rescheduled by the federal govern-

ment, the hemp industry will open up—a huge industry unto itself. Also, the pharmaceutical industry will start growing cannabis. They’ll break it down into its individual components; they’ll isolate and utilize all of the terpenes, break them down into their individual components, then rebuild them as medicine. We know that lots of terpenes and cannabinoids work synergistically. So now you’ll have pharmaceutical companies combining those individual components in a way that’s going to best suit the medical needs of patients.”

Of course, the prospect of pharmaceutical companies tinkering with cannabis has always disturbed a large segment of our community, but Derik thinks this fear is unfounded. “It’s not something people should really be afraid of,” he says. “This is how medical patients will receive the most beneficial medical aspects of the plant. I think we need to embrace it, because it’s ultimately what’s going to happen. Think of the child cancer patient who can receive all the anti-cancer properties of cannabis without the psychoactive effect. We need to learn how to deal with the changes that are coming our way in a responsible manner. That’s the appropriate response.”

In other words, *embrace the ether!* ✨

Visit [elementalwellnesscenter.com](http://elementalwellnesscenter.com).



## Seeds of Glory

Two Montana growers move to California and become star seed breeders.

**I first met** Jason when he was a family farmer in Montana: On his acreage about an hour outside Helena, he grew wheat and alfalfa crops. But my interest was in the massive greenhouse he tended.

Jason had called *High Times* and invited us to visit his greenhouse at harvest. When I arrived, it was overflowing with bud. His pot farm on the prairie produced an epic story (“Big Sky High,” April ‘10).

In addition to producing hundreds of pounds as a medical grower, Jason was an avid breeder, developing new strains in the basement of the family farmhouse. And with the attention gained from the article’s publication, Jason started to think bigger.

His tale actually mirrors the script of an old movie Western: Young man grows up (or in this case, grows pot) on a farm, gets restless and begins to dream. So he saddles up with his long-time sidekick Tony—also his partner in the greenhouse—and heads west.

Or, in this case, east—to Amsterdam.

One of their first stops was DNA Genetics,

the hugely successful seed company that has taken home fistfuls of awards in cannabis competitions for its superstar strains, which include LA Confidential, Chocolope and Kosher Kush.

Jason and Tony were eager to meet Don and Aaron, who helm DNA—after all, their greenhouse was already brimming with DNA genetics. The meeting eventually resulted in a mutual opportunity: DNA was sufficiently impressed with their skills in the garden to entrust them with a new division of DNA Seeds—Reserva Privada—that represented the Montana partners’ entree into the industry.

They set to work with the DNA catalog, and Reserva Privada strains began repeatedly turning up in the winners’ circle at High Times Cannabis Cups. Kosher Kush, in particular, won multiple awards on Jason and Tony’s watch.

Once they got their feet wet, the pair were sure they had the ability to succeed with their own line of seeds. Fortune smiled upon them when, two years ago, they encountered Derik from Elemental Wellness at a Cannabis Cup. They became fast friends. (cont on pg. 64)

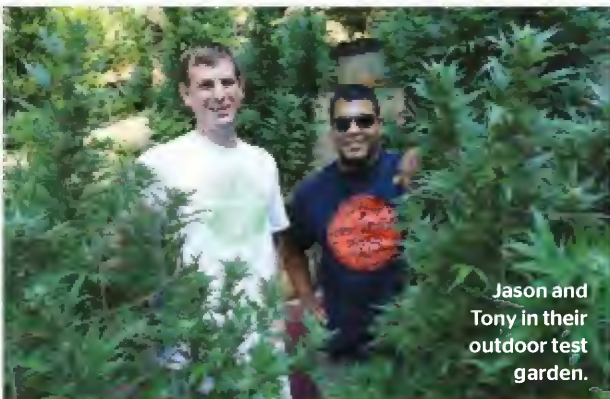


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Jason and Tony in their outdoor test garden.

“You’ve got to start with strong landrace genetics that aren’t watered down.”

In Elemental Seeds’ breeding rooms, tasty new seeds are being created.



Derik recalls: “Jason talked about feeling constrained. He and Tony were actively looking for a way to start their own seed company. I was willing to partner up with them. I had already provided them with our True OG to work with, and they were producing great new strains with it. It seemed like a smart move for Elemental Wellness to have a hand in creating fresh new genetics for our patients.”

Jason’s brother took over the family farm, and Jason and Tony moved their seed-breeding operation to California permanently. Now they oversee Elemental Seeds, an operation comprising five separate growrooms—four dedicated to seed breeding, and the fifth reserved for observing their indoor strain selections grown from seed. Local greenhouses are given seeds to test out under those specific conditions, while Jason’s backyard patio is a jungle of plants being monitored for their interactions with the great outdoors.

Breeding is an exercise in patience. It takes a full year to stabilize a new strain. Jason says, “You’ve got to start with strong landrace genetics that aren’t watered down. Of course, the best genetics are those that are extremely rare. Everybody’s constantly looking for really crazy terpene profiles—those with unique smells, tastes and flavors. Everybody’s on a pheno hunt now. When you breed, it’s important to grow out hundreds of plants—not just 10 or so. You’re looking for the strongest, most robust phenotype.”

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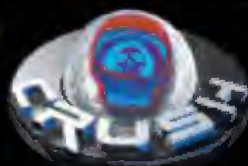
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By Nico Escondido



THC-rich resin glands on Strawberry Banana Kush.

**I**t's that time of year again, when we look back at our most recent round of Cannabis Cup competitions to determine who had the strongest cannabis on the planet in 2014—and, more importantly, exactly which strains they were! After implementing our online Cannabis Cup scoring system three years ago—the High Times Scorebook, which includes lab tests as part of the scoring equation—we now have a very good handle on which strains are the planet's most potent, year in and year out.

In order to ensure that all regions are represented, we decided to change up the format this year: Rather than rank

the top overall strains, we've taken the top five from each Cup in 2014 and listed them in order of THC potency. This also helps to illustrate a growing concern regarding consistency in the data provided by cannabis-testing labs around the world—a concern that will be addressed later in this article.

So without further ado, here's our list of the strongest *sativas*, *indicas* and hybrids that Ms. *Cannabis sativa* L. had to offer in 2014. We hope you had a chance to enjoy at least a few of them, but if not, don't worry—these ladies won't be going away anytime soon.



The Ghost Train  
Haze #1 is our first  
repeat Strongest  
Strains champion.



## Michigan Cup, July 2014

Results from Iron Labs, Walled Lake, MI, using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry (GC-MS).

STRAIN	COMPETITOR	CATEGORY	% THC	% CBD
Ghost Train Haze #1	OrganiBliss/Leaf Doctor	Medical <i>Sativa</i>	27.46	0.3
Hey Dave	710 Savant	Medical <i>Indica</i>	24.71	0.23
Alien Dawg F2	Herbal Solutions	Medical <i>Indica</i>	24.71	0.36
Girl Scout Cookies	Western Michigan Alternative Medication Solutions	Medical Hybrid	24.13	0.61
Death Star	Detroit Nutrient Company / IDK	Medical Hybrid	23.99	0.43

### Notes:

Ghost Train Haze #1 appeared in our very first "Strongest Strains on Earth" list, taking the prize as the most potent strain of 2011. Back then, she hit 25.49% THC at the Denver Cannabis Cup. In 2014, she's our THC champion once again, coming in at nearly 2% higher. Entered by OrganiBliss, and grown by the Leaf Doctor, she was propagated from seeds produced by Rare Dankness. The flowering time was 80 days.

While it was the strongest strain of 2014, Ghost Train Haze took only second place in the *Sativa* Cup, getting edged out by Arborside Compassion's Catfish, which hit 20.32% THC.

Hey Dave, an *indica*-dominant cross of OG Kush x Afghani Kush x Casey Jones, was grown from seed in a deep-water culture (DWC) system.

Alien Dawg, which placed second in the *Indica* Cup, was an F2 resulting from a Chem D x Alien Tech cross. She was grown from seed using Pro-Mix soil and organic teas and was one of the best flavors of the 2014 Michigan Cup. Her flowering time was 69 days.





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The Guava Chem from the 2014 LA Cup, has become one of the most popular strains in the past year.



## LA Cup, February 2014

Results from CSA Labs, Los Angeles, CA, using GC-MS.

STRAIN	COMPETITOR	CATEGORY	% THC	% CBD
Nexus OG	Venice Medical Center	Medical <i>Indica</i>	24	0.4
White Fire OG	Silika / Payaso Grow	Medical Hybrid	23.34	0.4
Red Dragon	RCP Sacramento	Medical <i>Sativa</i>	22.74	0.4
Guava Chem	San Jose Patients Group	Medical Hybrid	22.54	0.49
Strawberry Banana	California Natural Collective	Medical Hybrid	22.51	0.54

### Notes:

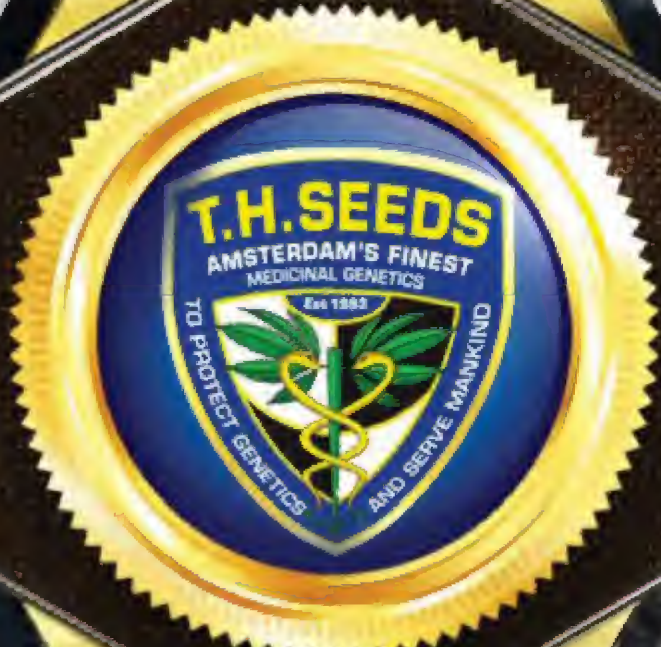
Red Dragon won first place in the *Sativa* Cup and is a Utopia Haze x Himalayan cross. Grown from clone, she took nine and a half weeks to finish and was the most potent *sativa* in her category.

White Fire OG and Guava Chem topped the THC charts in the hybrid category, though neither placed in the Hybrid Cup. Instead, Gorilla Glue #4 (20.4%) and two OG hybrids (both below 20%) took Cups home.

Guava Chem from San Jose Patients Group is a clone-only cross of Star Dawg x Tres Dawg, essentially making her a quadruple Chem D with a splash of Afghanica. Off-the-charts aroma and flavor.

Strawberry Banana is a Subblegum x Banana Kush cross and goes nine weeks in flowering.





# 2014 WINS

BUBBLEGUM



EXPOGROW - SATIVA

LA S.A.G.E.



BIO - CUP SPAIN

MK-ULTRA



SPAIN BARCELONA

MK-ULTRA



HIGH TIMES

DENVER CUP - INDICA

S.A.G.E.



EXPOGROW - SATIVA

BUBBLEGUM



EXPOGROW - RESIN

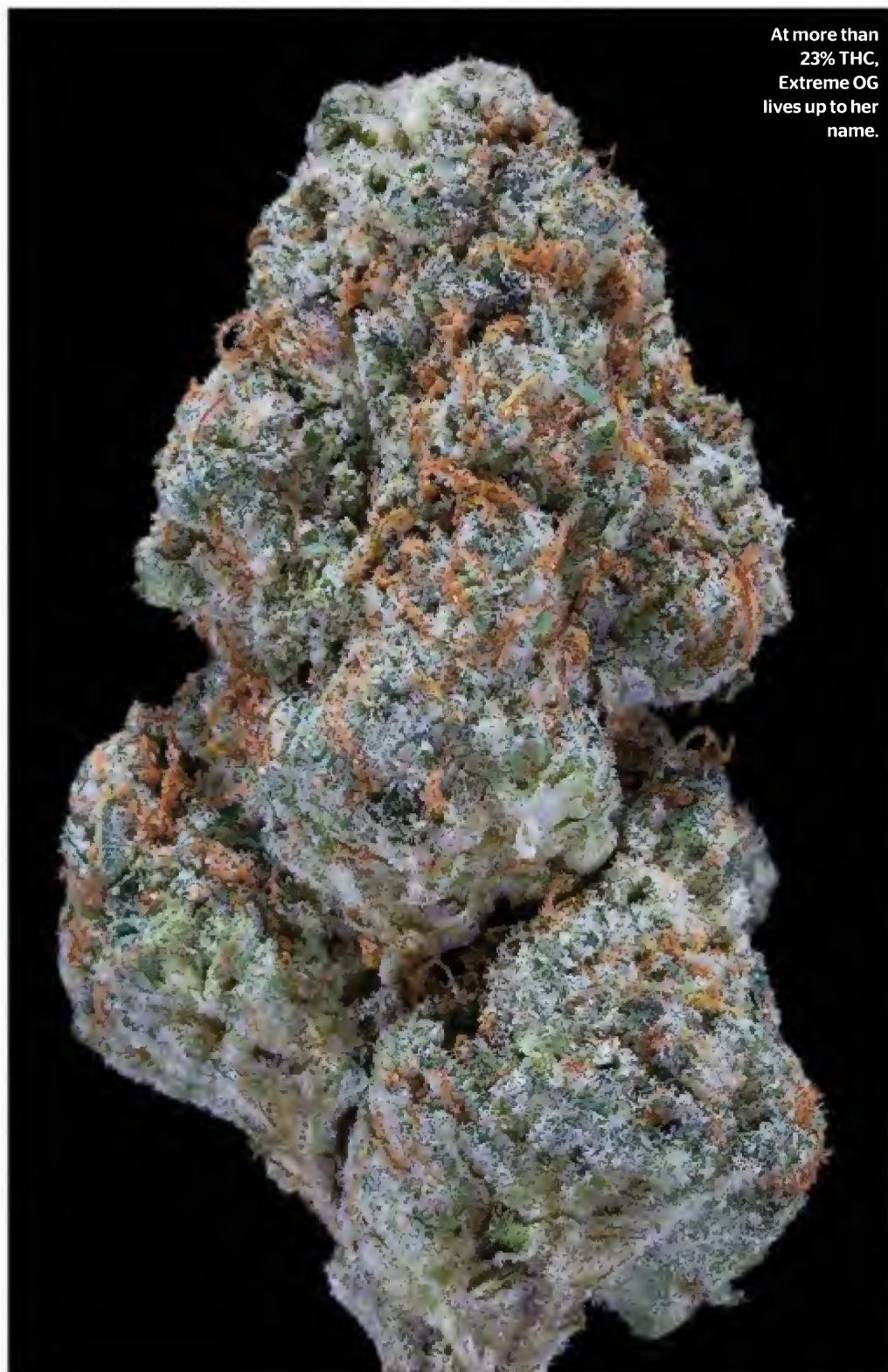
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## Amsterdam Cup, November 2014

Results from Steep Hill Halent using a QuantaCann2 (IR-referenced technology).

STRAIN	COMPETITOR	CATEGORY	% THC	% CBD
Extreme OG	Exotic Genetix	<i>Indica</i> , Seed Company	23.37	0
Tangerine Dream	Barney's Farm	<i>Sativa</i> , Seed Company	22.6	0
True Gold	Elemental Seeds	<i>Indica</i> , Seed Company	22.48	0
The Sauce	Exotic Genetix	<i>Sativa</i> , Seed Company	22.16	0
Granddaddy Terps	OCD Labs	<i>Indica</i> , Seed Company	22.02	0

None of the top five most potent strains from the Amsterdam Cup placed in the competition, proving the strongest strains do not always equal winning strains.

### Missing the Mile High?

It is no accident that we left Denver out of this year's rankings for the strongest strains on Earth (a.k.a. "The List"). For starters, the Denver Cup annually produces a majority of the winners on The List, so this year we thought we'd showcase more of the great strains from other Cups around the world.

Last year, Denver accounted for 10 of the top 15 strongest strains from the previous year's Cups (2013). Of course, this leads us to wonder whether Colorado's labs are doing something different in terms of procedures and protocols to produce these higher results.

It's for this reason that High Times uses two independent labs at every Cannabis Cup competition. To bring more consistency to our lab data and improve the overall integrity of our Cups, High Times has teamed up with Steep Hill Halent, one of the first national cannabis-testing labs in the US, for an official partnership that has Steep Hill serving as one of two labs at every Cannabis Cup competition we hold around the globe.

### Notes:

None of the top five most potent strains from the 2014 Amsterdam Cup placed in the competition. Nearly half of the Amsterdam winners had from 3 to 5 percent CBD in their cannabinoid profile.

The highest-tested strain in the competition—Extreme OG, a Fire OG x Green Ribbon backcross—was grown using Kyle Kushman's Veganic nutrient line, Vegamatrix.

Tangerine Dream (from Barney's Farm) won the 2010 Cannabis Cup in the coffeeshop category.

Granddaddy Terps is a Purple Cheddar (Exodus Cheese x GDP) x (Chem Bx x SFV OG) cross.

The Sauce is a Gorilla Glue #4 x Green Ribbon Bx backcross. Green Ribbon is a newer, relatively unknown California strain whose lineage is murky. Green Crack is presumed to be one of the parents, and she is known to have a THC content in the low 20s.





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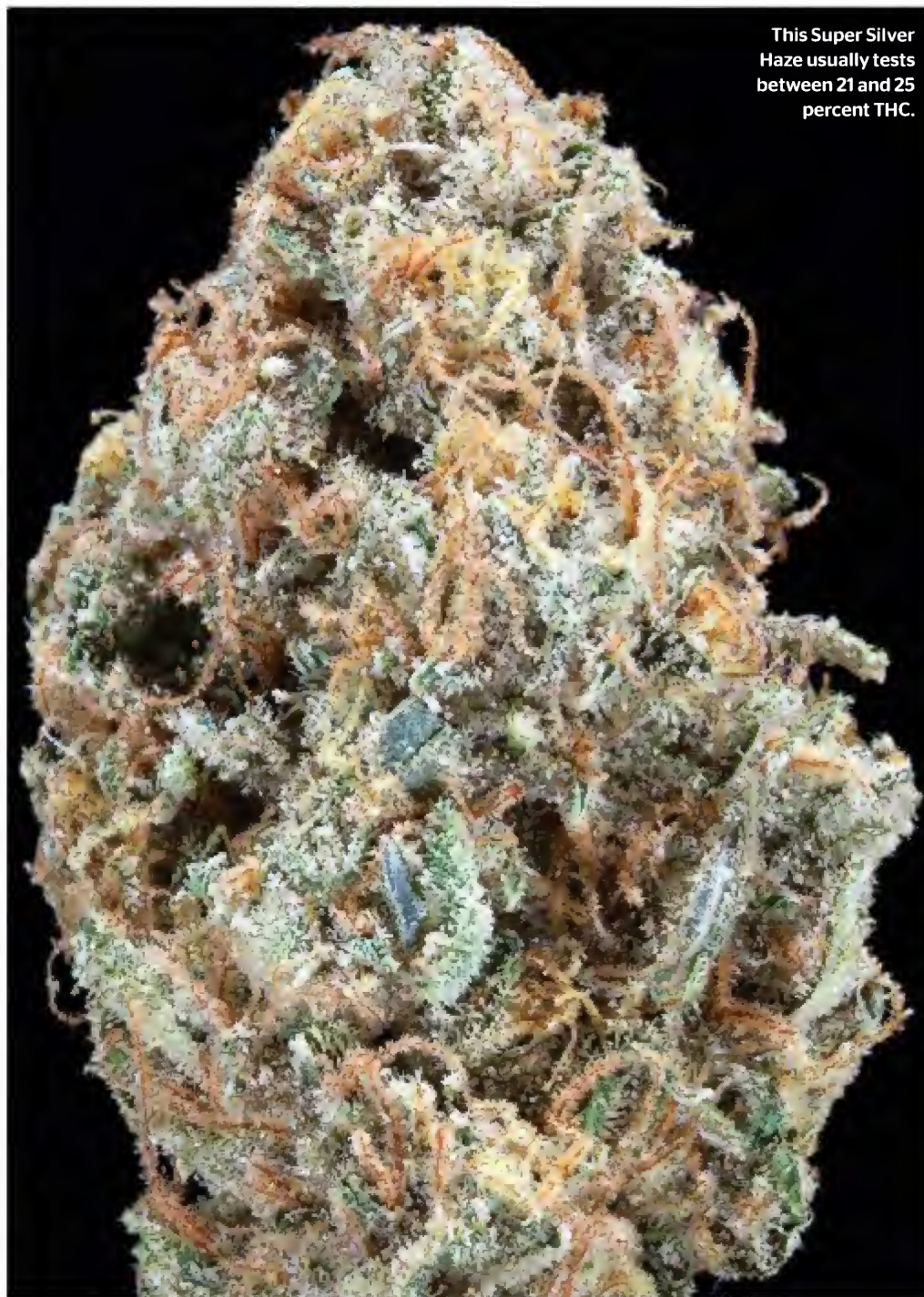
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## A New Look for The List

It was a hard decision to make, but for this year's ranking of the strongest strains on Earth, we decided to change up The List's format and deviate from our traditional order to instead highlight each region's most potent strains.



This Super Silver Haze usually tests between 21 and 25 percent THC.

## NorCal Cup, June 2014

Results from Steep Hill Halent using high-pressure liquid chromatography.

STRAIN	COMPETITOR	CATEGORY	% THC	% CBD
Silver Haze	MedMar Healing Center	Medical Sativa	21.46	0
Nightmare	Quality Organic Association	Medical Sativa	20.26	0
Blue Dream Haze	Mario Curtis	Medical Sativa	20.02	0
Veganic Jesus OG	Private Stock for Buds & Roses	Medical Sativa	18.46	0.08

We did this for a couple of reasons, the most important being that in 2014 we used several different labs across our Cup competitions, resulting in some variation in the data obtained. This is an issue that the cannabis industry has been grappling with for several years now: how to arrive at a consensus in terms of lab standards and testing protocols.

Each lab has different types of equipment, calibration techniques, and equations applied to the results to come up with specific values. This problem not only creates confusion for the general public, but also sparks debate among labs as to which methods are best for calculating values like THC and CBD levels.

Some labs prefer to use equations to arrive at an "activated THC" value, or the amount of THC that the user actually receives upon smoking (see page 84). Other labs present the highest possible THC value, or the plant's maximum potential, by adding the acid form (THC-A) to the already present THC level for a much higher (though unrealistic) number. And still other labs don't possess the necessary equipment (high-pressure liquid chromatography, or HPLC) to derive either of these equations and simply use a gas-chromatography device that heats the material and gives an already decarboxylated THC value. This is why Cup results obtained using gas chromatography have slightly higher potency values for THC.

In the end, this problem poses a real dilemma for our burgeoning legal cannabis industry, and it's an issue that is being worked out among the nation's top labs, including Steep Hill Halent, SC Labs, the Wercshop and many other members of the Association of California Cannabis Labs.

### Notes:

The top five strongest strains from the Nor-Cal Cup in Sonoma last year were all *sativas*. The next five were all hybrids. The top *indica* from the competition (Banana OG) reached only 16.42% THC.

Two of the top five strongest strains from this Cup (Nightmare & Jesus OG) were grown using Veganic nutrients.

Nightmare flowered over 13 weeks and was grown from clone. Her lineage is unknown.

Jesus OG is actually a *sativa*-dominant cross of Hells OG x Jack's Cleaner x Space Queen. She was grown using Kyle Kushman's Vega-matrix nutrient line.





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This Chem Cookies combines the legendary Chem D with the newly popular Girl Scout Cookies.

## Seattle Cup, September 2014

Results by Steep Hill Halent using high-pressure liquid chromatography.

STRAIN	COMPETITOR	CATEGORY	% THC	% CBD
Kaya's Koffee	Pacific NW Roots	<i>Indica</i> (Rec)*	19.7	0
Zeus OG	A Greener Today	Medical Hybrid	19.2	0
Chem Cookies	Starfire with Moe Lasses	Medical <i>Indica</i>	19.2	0
HSO Sapphire Scout	Canapa	Hybrid (Rec)*	19	0
Veganic Starkiller OG Rare Dankness	William Braveheart Green for Vegamatrix	Hybrid (Rec)*	18.9	0

\*\* (Rec)\* denotes the recreational category of the US Cup, held in states where adult recreational use is legal (Washington and Colorado).

### Notes:

Four of the five strongest strains listed here were grown using either organic or Veganic nutrient lines.

Kaya's Koffee is an Alien OG x Alien Kush (F2) grown from clone in soilless mix using Veganic nutrients. She flowered in 70 days.

Of the five most potent strains from Seattle, none were *sativas*. The highest-tested *sativa* was a Super Silver Haze at 18.6% THC.

Veganic Starkiller OG took first place in the US Hybrid Cup, Kaya's Koffee took third in the US *Indica* Cup, and Zeus OG took first in the Medical Hybrid Cup.

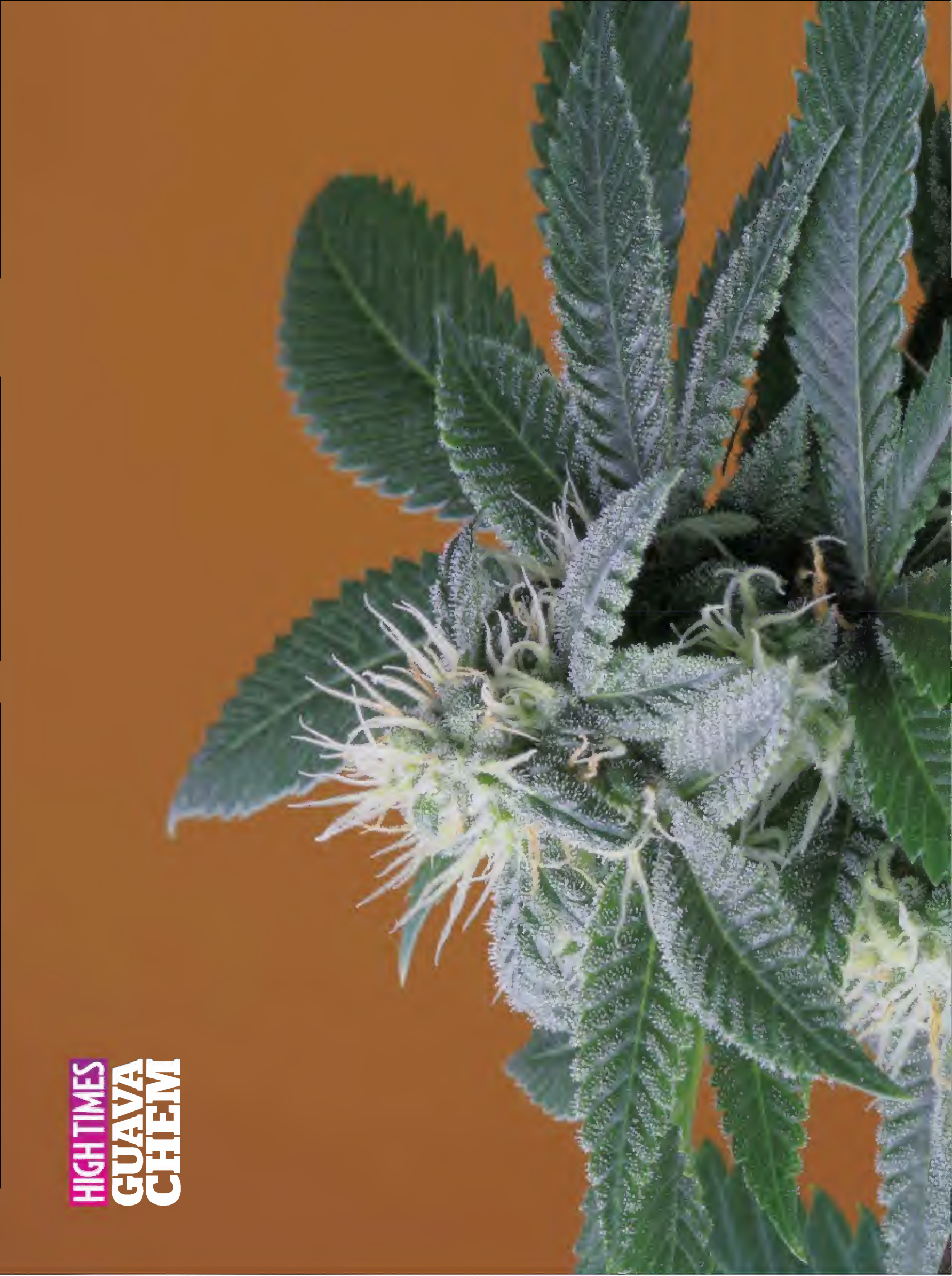
HSO Sapphire Scout is a Girl Scout Cookies (forum cut) female crossed with a reversed True OG Elite Cut.



**Kaya's Koffee**







**HIGH TIMES**  
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**Strawberry  
Banana**





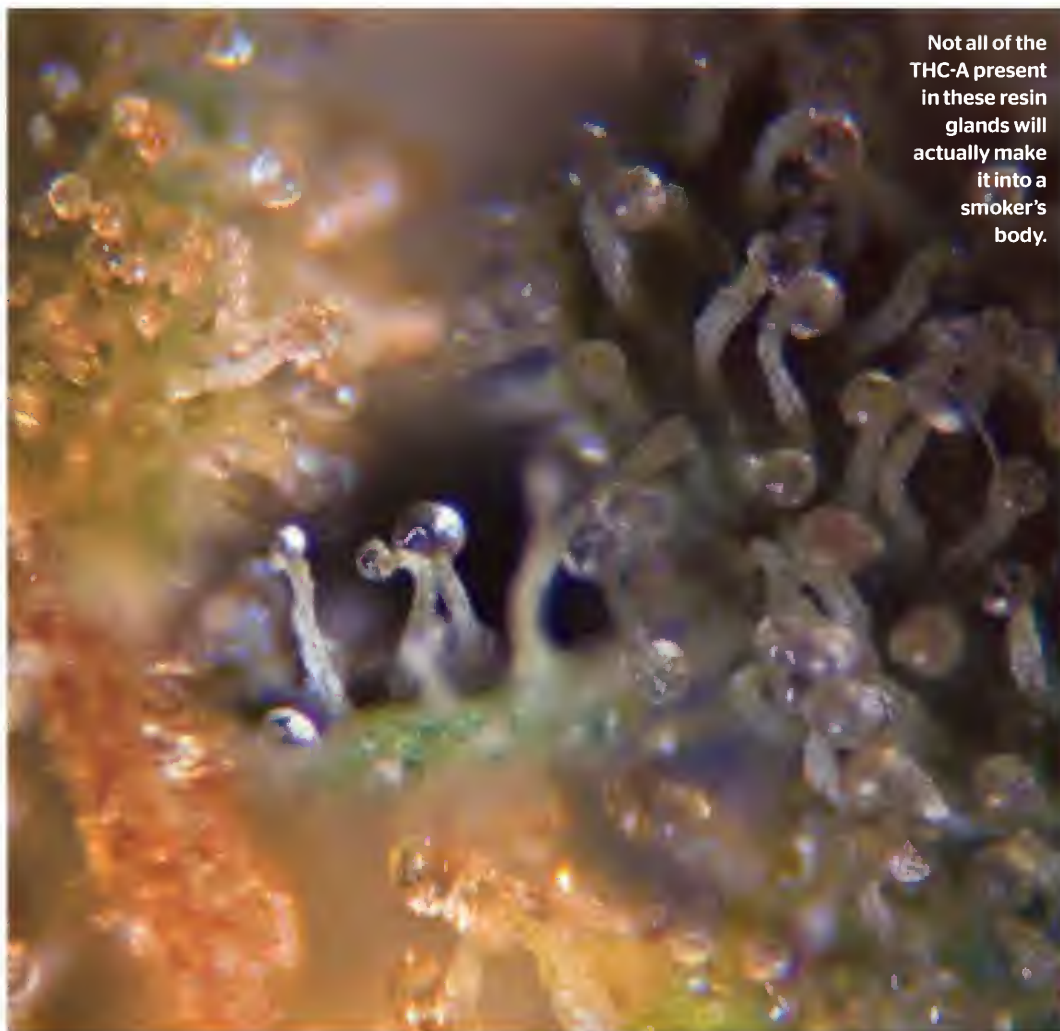
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**INDICA**





Not all of the THC-A present in these resin glands will actually make it into a smoker's body.

### Activated THC

You will notice that the values provided by Steep Hill Halent are slightly lower than most other labs' values. This isn't because Steep Hill uses a more conservative test for cannabis potency, but because it applies an equation to the results that, thanks to a lot of time and research, calculates the *activated THC value* of each flower.

"Activated THC" simply means the amount of THC that the user actually receives when smoking the buds, since not all THC-A is converted to THC in the decarboxylation process; nor is all THC captured by the smoker during inhalation. Thus, the equation for activated THC looks like this:  $(\text{THC-A} \times 0.66) + \text{THC}$ . Remember, a dried bud is mostly THC-A, which is the acid form and contains only a minute level of actual THC. THC-A must be decarboxylated and converted into THC by a chemical reaction caused by heat. High Times Scorebook uses this activated-THC number in its scoring algorithm whenever possible to calculate the overall scores in our competition. ✨

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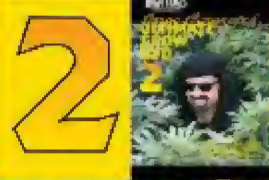
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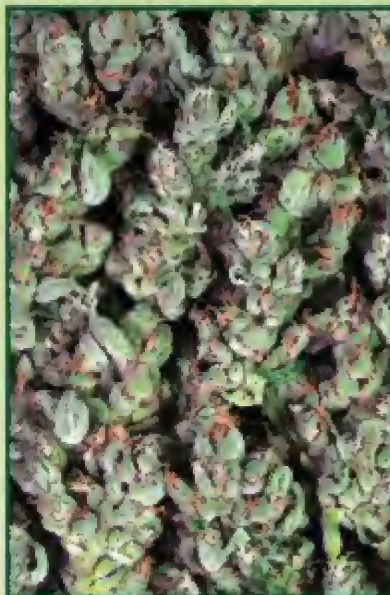
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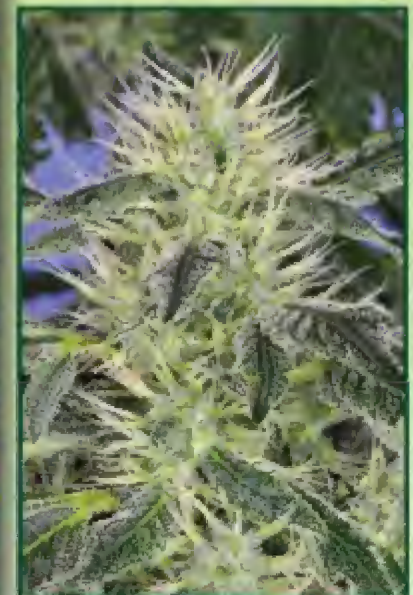
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Meet a new generation of female marijuana cultivators who are blazing a trail toward increasing equality in the cannabis industry, while growing some of the finest herb on Earth.

By *Elise McDonough and Sunshine Rizzolo*

# grower



**D**uring the dark days of marijuana prohibition, growing cannabis was a solitary lifestyle characterized by secrecy and paranoia, an

underground world inhabited almost exclusively by men. Draconian drug laws created risks unacceptable to most women, especially mothers who stood to lose custody of their children for being “unfit.”

When MzJill, co-founder of TGA Seeds, started growing 20 years ago, “it wasn’t common, safe or cool to be a grower,” she recalls, describing life in a suburban cul-de-sac as the single mother of

three young children, where she struggled to blend in with the neighbors and go unnoticed by the authorities. “I was a legal medical grower, but I was always so afraid to have anyone find



# girls



Brian Berry Cough (left), is a combination of Strawberry Cough and Space Queen. This strain was created by MzJill (below) as a tribute to ALS patient Brian Damewood, her childhood friend (above, center).



out—especially being a single mom, I didn't want trouble, I didn't want to be robbed, and I didn't want my children to be judged."

Producing her own medicine was more cost-effective

than purchasing it, so MzJill set up a discreetly camouflaged free-standing room in her garage and used hydroponic methods because she didn't want to dispose of conspicuous bags of soil. After

she was advised to avoid the nearest hydro store due to DEA surveillance, she created her own bubbler-bucket system with items found from local plumbing and hardware stores. "I had to make my own net pots with a drill, and I used aquatic plant food," she remembers. "When I first met Subcool, he drilled holes in my hydro buckets and converted me to soil!"

As their relationship blossomed, the couple continued to grow, founding TGA Seeds in 2001. Their seed company

growing. "In the beginning, I didn't realize I was taking a stand for women to become a part of the industry and be recognized," she remarks. "In a way, I made it okay for others to come out and take part in a world where it was all men."

Like a mother plant herself, MzJill's "cuttings" grew into a new crop of motivated female farmers, attracted to the marijuana industry by their passion for the plant. Many of these young women describe both a spiritual connection

***"Women have a special touch with the plant, more of a nurturing effect than men do," MzJill says.***

soon became the first well-known, aboveground cannabis-genetics source native to the United States, and their varieties continue to dominate the Pacific Northwest. The originator of powerful strains like Jillybean, MzJill says her most recent breeding project is a tribute to a fallen friend, Brian Damewood, who lost this struggle with ALS last June. "He was able to smoke the first harvest from the plant two days before he passed," she says. "We created Brian Berry Cough to help bring awareness of ALS and keep Brian's name alive." A highly potent hybrid of Kyle Kushman's Strawberry Cough crossed with a Cherry Space Queen male, the newly dubbed Brian Berry tastes like "Jolly Rancher's strawberry and cherry, with traces of grapes and lemons in certain phenotypes."

As a superstar breeder and tireless cannabis advocate, MzJill has become the most recognizable female face in the emerging homegrown cannabis-genetics industry, inspiring countless other women to pop seeds and get

to cannabis and an emotional bond with the female cannabis plant. "Women have a special touch with the plant, more of a nurturing effect than men do," MzJill says. "I seem to have a knack for choosing the mom that we'll end up using for our mother plant!"

As cannabis becomes increasingly legal in different US states, more and more women are choosing careers working with their favorite flower, bringing balance and new perspectives to a once male-dominated subculture. And as marijuana becomes a multibillion-dollar business, many more women will try cannabis products—especially ones designed, marketed and sold to them by other women.

For young women interested in a cannabis career, MzJill advises: "Don't let anything hold you back. Be kind and help other people, but don't let anyone take advantage of you."

With those wise words in mind, let's meet some of the new lady cultivators who are devoting their lives to growing cannabis and legalizing it for everyone.



Grower Girl:  
**Alyssa Greenberg**

Grower at Buds & Roses,  
Los Angeles, CA

A veganic cultivator mentored by Kyle Kushman, Alyssa believes that being a woman gives her a unique advantage over her male counterparts. "I view gardening time as 'girl time,' hanging out with the ladies and giving them lots of love. I think my plants look better and produce more when given only positive energy. I shield them from negativity."

**Favorite strains**

Grape Ape, Super Lemon Haze,  
Platinum Girl Scout Cookies

**Gardening method**

indoors, in soil, with 1,000-watt  
high-pressure sodium  
(HPS) lights

**Amendments**

VegaMatrix

**Pest control**

Integrated pest management

**Hash method**

Fresh-frozen ("We cut down  
entire plants and freeze the  
flowers to make ice hash later.")

**Alyssa's tips:**

**Be curious:** Always ask questions, especially if someone is sharing their knowledge.

**Be humble:** Look for ways to improve and take constructive criticism.

**Be flexible:** Bend, don't break! Don't insist your way is the best or only way to do something.



Alyssa at Buds & Roses.



Rowdi in her greenhouse.

Grower Girl:  
**Lexi "Rowdi" Yarborough**

Independent grower near Santa Cruz, CA

A tattoo artist, medical marijuana patient, model, grower and activist, Rowdi loves to stay busy on the farm! "My philosophy on life is: It's all about the experience," she says. "I grew up with little or no money, so I have always gypsied around .... I got involved in growing marijuana because I believe in legalization and I love herb!"

**Favorite strain**

Sour Diesel

**Gardening method**

Outdoors, in soil, and  
using a light-deprivation  
greenhouse

**Amendments**

Veganic compost teas

**Hash method**

Dry-sift and bubble bags

**Rowdi's tips:**

**Be clean:** Make sure everything is swept off the ground, put away your tools, and pick up dead leaves so you don't invite pest problems.

**Be observant:** Monitor your plants regularly for signs of trouble. You can read their fan leaves like you read a book.

**Be disciplined:** Check your pH regularly to make sure you have the desired results in both your soil and water.

**Be generous:** As your plants grow, transplant them into bigger containers so they don't get root-bound. Giving roots space to spread out will lead to healthier plants and higher yields.





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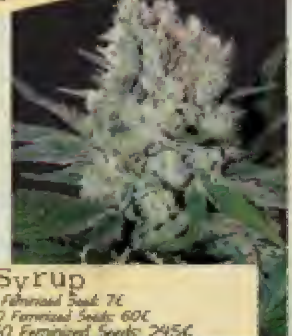
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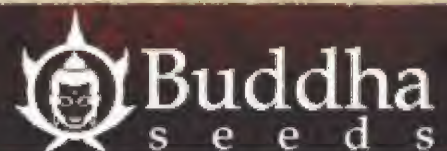
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## Grower Girl: **Cara**

*Independent grower in Hawaii*

After learning on the job for years as an assistant grower, Cara currently manages her own indoor grow in the Aloha State. "This is a newfound passion in my life!" Cara says. "I have friends who are guiding me and sharing their secrets to help me become a gifted grower. Being mentored this way is a beautiful process—I'm having fun learning and growing!"

### **Favorite strains:**

God's Gift, Banana OG and all OG strains

### **Gardening method:**

An indoor 10' x 10' room with six 1,000-watt HPS lights

### **Pest control:**

Neem oil and Azamax

### **Hash method:**

Ice wax and dry-sift

### **Cara's tips:**

**Use seeds:** Plants grown from seed get bigger faster and are more resilient to pests and diseases.

**Be vigilant:** Monitor pH balance and ppm levels often.

**Be patient:** Wait until the plants are truly ripe to harvest. Trichomes should be milky white and about one-third amber in color when you chop them down.



Cara grows her herb in Hawaii.

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# MzJill's Time-Tested Grow Tips

**Selecting mother plants:** "Examine the plant structure and look for closely alternating branches. From experience, I know that the more stacking of the branches, the more potent and better-quality medicine I can get from those plants."

**Selecting male plants for breeding:** "We do smell-testing, and the males that smell the best are worth experimenting with. We also look at their type of growth to rule out hemp-like traits."

**Using soil:** "Plants produce more cannabinoids and flavor when grown in soil. It's more natural, as the plant has to break down the nutrients itself, akin to how people should eat whole foods, not processed, boxed foods. You want your plants to be as natural as possible."



MzJill in a room of Brian Berry Cough.

**Going solventless:** "I don't think you can get all the chemicals out of hash produced

with solvents, and it's possibly unsafe for patients with altered immune systems to take in all

those chemicals. You only get one set of lungs, and I prefer to smoke the cleanest that you can smoke!"

**Controlling pests:** "We use Hot Shot pest strips, which are a chemical solution, but we're not rubbing them against the plants—it's just in the same room. We use diatomaceous earth for pest problems in the soil."

**Keeping it sterile:** "Always quarantine clones before introducing them into your regular growroom. Don't allow pets in grow areas, and always go into the growroom with clean, fresh clothes on. If you go into a friend's growroom and then into your room, you can introduce spores, molds and mildews."

**Curing in glass:** "You gotta get all that extra moisture out for a smooth smoke. We jar-cure everything and avoid using plastic, because glass confers superior flavor." 🌿

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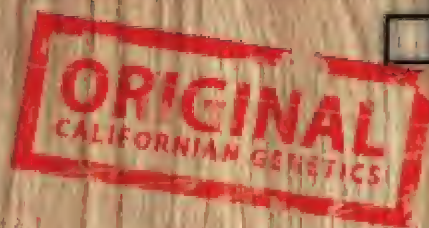
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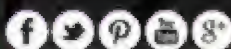
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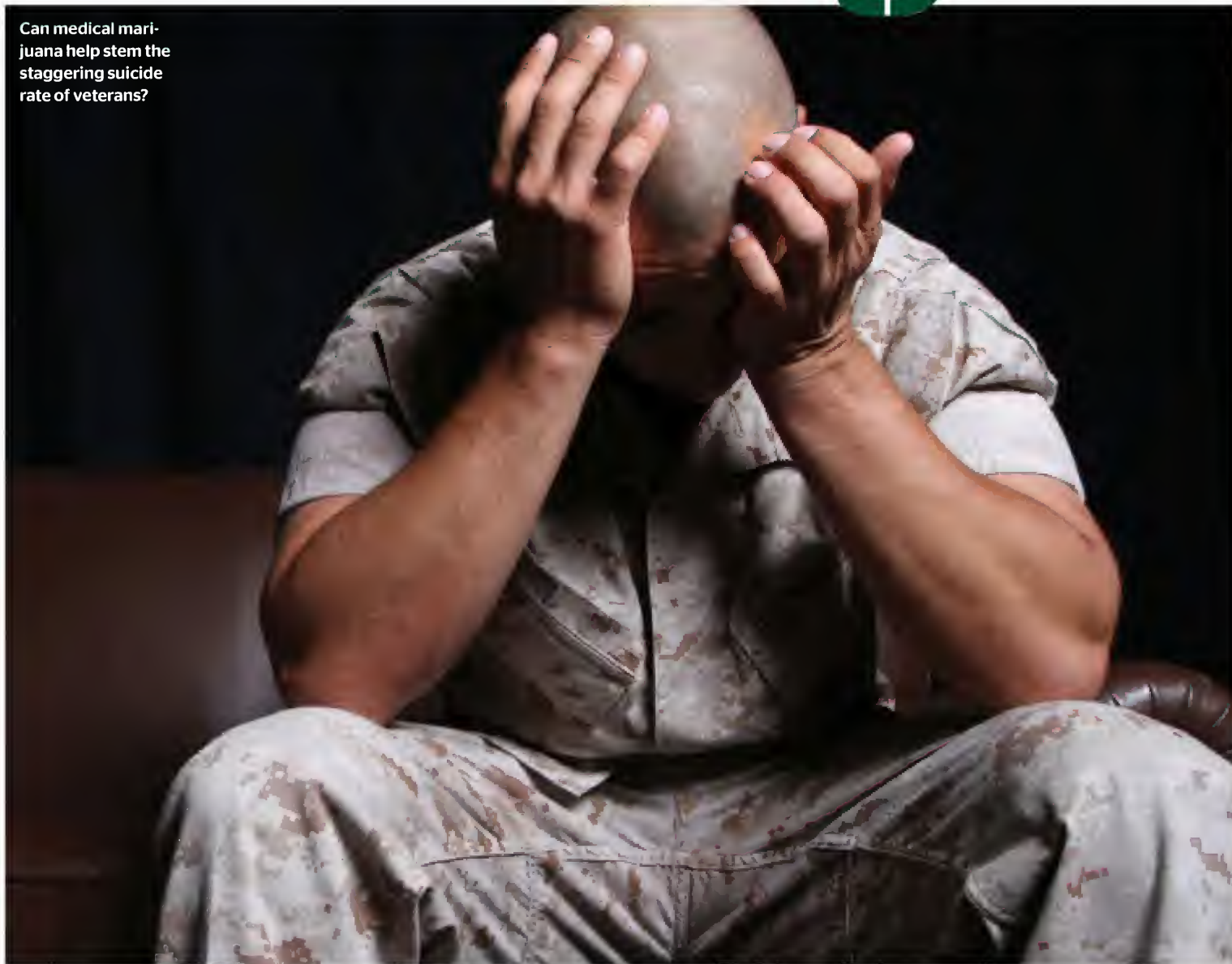
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# THE Green Legion

Can medical marijuana help stem the staggering suicide rate of veterans?



TWENTY PERCENT OF VETERANS WHO SERVED IN IRAQ OR AFGHANISTAN SUFFER FROM SOME DEGREE OF POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER. AT PRESENT, NO RELIABLE PHARMACEUTICAL TREATMENT EXISTS FOR PTSD, BUT CANNABIS HAS BEEN SHOWN TO PROVIDE RELIEF. WHILE SOME DOCTORS IN THE US DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TURN A BLIND EYE TO THEIR PATIENTS' USE OF MARIJUANA, OTHERS TAKE A HARD STAND AGAINST IT, AND FEDERAL LAW MAKES IT ILLEGAL TO PRESCRIBE CANNABIS AS A TREATMENT. MEANWHILE, AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM IN CANADA HELPS VETERANS IN THAT COUNTRY GET MEDICAL MARIJUANA PRESCRIPTIONS AND PROVIDES A COMMUNAL SETTING FOR THEM TO RECOVER. SOME SOLDIERS CREDIT IT WITH SAVING THEIR LIVES. *By CHRIS SIMUNEK*

## COLD WAR

It's January during another dreaded polar vortex, and I'm experiencing for the first time in my life the throbbing ache that occurs in one's face when the temperature drops below -9°F on a windy day. There are mountains in the distance, but urban sprawl has displaced most of the Acadian forest here in Oromocto, New Brunswick. Any ground that is not regularly stepped on or driven over is a glassy sheet of pure white ice.

Oromocto is a military town, home to the Fifth Canadian Support Base Gagetown, one of the largest training bases in the Commonwealth. Opened in 1956, the facility was meant to train soldiers in case Canada was called upon to fulfill its NATO obligations and defend Western Europe from Khrushchev's commie hordes. I was invited up here by Fabian Henry, an ex-sergeant in the Canadian Armed Forces and the founder of Marijuana for Trauma (MFT), a group that

helps 800 wounded veterans and first responders obtain access to medical marijuana—up to 10 grams a day, in fact, delivered to their door and paid for by Veterans Affairs Canada.

MFT's headquarters is located in a nondescript strip mall. The only thing that might distinguish it from a dentist's office is the occasional group of vets standing in the parking lot imbibing their medicine. There's a camaraderie here, a shared sense of joy and relief.



[This is the one part of their day these guys know won't be a struggle.

The Canadian veterans don't seem to mind me sitting in on their sessions with Fabian as they describe their gripes with the VAC, their problems at home, their outbursts on the job. Sitting at his desk, a keffiyeh wrapped around his neck, Fabian rests his black-bearded chin on his knuckles and listens with the patience of a man who has been where they are. The back of his jacket reads: "This veteran is medicated for your protection."

There's a soldier from the local base named Andrew sitting in Fabian's office, shaking violently, the victim of a nervous disorder related to his multiple symptoms of PTSD, social anxiety and panic syndrome. Andrew has never seen combat; his affliction is the result of the way he's been treated during his years of service here in Oromocto. He tells the story about the time he was promoted and, rather than pinning the new commendation on his uniform, the commanding officer dropped it on the floor in disgust. Mental abuse, isolation, degradation—the whole ordeal has landed him in the middle of a silent, lonely, neurological hurricane. Andrew came to Fabian for help and eventually hooked up with Nina, a high-CBD strain that, I am told, tightens his screws.

"All I have to do is smoke a CBD joint and the shaking goes away," Andrew tells me.

"This, I want to see," I reply.

So now we're in the parking lot watching Andrew fumble with a lighter while his hand jerks back and forth like it's glued to an invisible Pac-Man joystick. Fabian helps him out, putting a cherry on the joint. Within four minutes—half the spliff—I notice that when Andrew takes the Bic again and goes to relight, his hand is surgeon-still. He's been cured like some Christ-touched leper—problem solved, at least temporarily. And I'm standing there like Thomas the Apostle, a reformed doubter, convinced now that it has become my mission to spread the Word.

## BATTLE SCARS

In 2000, a 20-year-old Fabian Henry found that he no longer had the money to continue going to college. He landed a job on the local military base in Oromocto and, as a lifelong hockey fan, started playing on a civilian team against the local soldiers. He liked the idea that they were encouraged to play hockey as part of their physical training. With not a whole lot of other options open to

him, he enlisted in the Canadian Armed Forces and became a combat engineer. After being deployed in peacekeeping and humanitarian missions to Haiti, Pakistan, Eritrea, and East Africa, Fabian did two tours in Afghanistan, where it was his job to locate and neutralize land mines and improvised explosive devices.



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The strain that worked best for Fabian's PTSD was Bubba Kush. Worried that the source of his newfound peace would dry up, he paid \$37,000 to have 10 pounds of it delivered to him.

"Afghanistan is where my traumatic event happened," he says. "On Easter weekend 2007, six infantrymen blew up 500 meters from our position. Two days later, I got two Canadian soldiers killed."

As Fabian tells it, it was his job, as the senior engineer, to clear the roads ahead of his convoy. On this day, he managed to locate and explode one mine without incident. Night came, and since he knew from experience that there was always a secondary mine in this kind of setup, he told a sergeant major to pass a message along to the waiting vehicles: They shouldn't cross until first light, after Fabian had a chance to prove the route.

Unfortunately, the message relayed

wasn't the one Fabian had given to the sergeant major. The convoy moved out, and an armored Coyote reconnaissance vehicle hit a double-stacked TC-6 anti-tank mine that flipped the vehicle on its side. Two of the passengers were dead by the time the Blackhawk helicopter arrived to evacuate them. Fabian's decision to entrust an intermediary with that message, rather than take it directly to the convoy himself, was a mistake that he would replay over and over in his head for the next three years.

The trauma did not manifest itself immediately. The battlefield, after all, is a desensitizing place, and it was Fabian's job to inspect blast sites and pick through the bloody wreckage. The images were filed away in his mind like invoices to be paid at a later date.

"When I came home, I tried to connect with my kids and my wife, but I couldn't stop being hyper-vigilant; I couldn't stop thinking about some of the decisions I made," he recalls. "As I looked into things deeper, I found out that one of the guys [who died in the convoy] was from here. His hometown was here and his parents are here, you know? I spent a lot of sleepless nights thinking about that. And what you try to do is find a substance or something to eliminate that feeling. You inflict pain, or you want

somebody else to inflict physical pain on you—because, emotionally, you're hurting worse than anything that anybody could do to you." Out of desperation, Fabian finally tried cannabis, and "when it hit my lungs, it was like *phssssshhhhh*," he says of the breakthrough moment. "I don't know what winning the lottery would be like, but I imagine it is something like that."

The strain that worked best for his PTSD was Bubba Kush, a strong *indica*. Worried that the source of his newfound peace would dry up, Fabian paid \$37,000 to have 10 pounds of it delivered to him. "When I had the right concentrated amount of cannabis, it leveled out my

amount of cannabis, it leveled out my

amount of cannabis, it leveled out my



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receptors immediately,” he continues. “When you’re going from zero to 10 and you’re angry and you’re going to punch somebody out, you can take a puff, and it hits you back and allows you to relax for a minute and think about things before you punch somebody in the face, or kill yourself, or kill someone else.”

Separated from his wife, Fabian now had a lot of time to research his condition. He came across a study by Dr. Alexander Neumeister of New York University’s Langone Medical Center that linked PTSD to cannabinoid receptors—specifically the CB1 receptors—in the human brain. Cannabinoid receptors are part of the endocannabinoid system (named for the cannabis-plant compounds that led to its discovery), a network of chemicals and signaling pathways that promote homeostasis in the body and help regulate the nervous system, among other things. The endocannabinoid system is deeply connected to memory, mood, pain and other functions affected by PTSD. Through brain imaging, Dr. Neumeister discovered that PTSD sufferers have an elevated number of CB1 receptors in the brain regions associated with fear and anxiety, and lower concentrations of the neurotransmitter anandamide (taken from the Sanskrit word *ananda*, meaning, “joy, bliss, delight”), which binds to these receptors. Dr. Neumeister found that the use of cannabis caused a spike in anandamide, which, in turn, corrected this imbalance.

In a statement accompanying the publication of his study, Dr. Neumeister said: “There is not a single pharmacological treatment out there that has been developed specifically for PTSD. That’s a problem. There’s a consensus among clinicians that existing pharmaceutical treatments such as antidepressants simply do not work. In fact, we know very well that people with PTSD who use marijuana—a potent cannabinoid—often experience more relief from their symptoms than they do from antidepressants and other psychiatric medications. Clearly, there’s a very urgent need to develop novel evidence-based treatments for PTSD.”

It was almost as though the brain researcher had given Fabian Henry his marching orders. Fabian’s kitchen table soon became a combination office, library and proving ground, the place he invited other veterans to try the plant that had worked for him. As he gauged its effects on his friends, he found that cannabis not only helped with PTSD, but also chronic pain, traumatic brain injury,

irritable bowel syndrome, erectile dysfunction, nervous disorders, and alcohol and drug addiction. Before long, wives were thanking Fabian for giving them their husbands back; kids were commenting that their dads were present in their lives again. Considering the calamitous suicide rate among Canadian vets,



Fabian Henry, founder of Marijuana For Trauma

“We’re not saying we have a cure, but we have a better chance of increasing your quality of life than anything I’ve seen.”

Fabian felt it was his duty to take things to the next level—and so he founded Marijuana for Trauma.

Not only did Fabian help other veterans get their medical pot prescriptions, he showed them how to get it paid for by Veterans Affairs Canada and delivered to their door. He pored over sections 2.1 through 2.4 of the New Veterans Charter, which deals with psychiatric impairment, and started coaching vets on how to receive payments from the VAC that they had no idea they were entitled to. He searched out doctors who enthusiastically prescribed marijuana and psychologists who thought outside of the pharmaceutical box. He even enlisted his old friend Matt Ferris, a nutritionist, to help the guys break their lousy eating habits.

Along with microbial biologist and cannabis breeder Dr. Darryl Hudson, Fabian devised the “Platinum Kush” program, which researches the strains that work best for PTSD. By giving their

volunteers unlabeled strains, they discovered a definite hierarchy of effectiveness. The pair continued their trials at the 2014 High Times Cannabis Cup in Denver, and today they list Chemdog, Rockstar OG Kush, Master OG Kush, Chem Chem and Chem ’91 as providing the most relief. MFT also enlists veterans experienced with the program as “peer-support cannabis coaches” to help guide newcomers to the most effective medicine.

It is Fabian’s belief that marijuana alone is not enough; its use needs to be combined with other types of therapy. To that end, he’s starting Veterans for Healing, a nonprofit organization that will pay for veterans to undergo a 30- to 60-day treatment program in a lodge on Cranberry Island in rural New Brunswick. There, they’ll have access to hyperbaric oxygen therapy, neuro-feedback therapy and cranial-sacro-massage therapy. The retreat will also include a sweat lodge, music studio and gym, along with programs for yoga, fishing, art therapy, swimming and primitive camping. He hopes to open it later this year.

“The problem with a lot of vets is that they’re isolating—it’s part of PTSD,” Fabian says. “The army let them down, the military let them down, and then they take off to the woods and do whatever. They need something to be a part of to clean their act back up. We’re not saying we have a cure, but we have a better chance of increasing your quality of life than anything I’ve seen.”

## THE VAPOR CORP

About 500 meters from the MFT office is the local outpost of the Royal Canadian Legion. Its official badge, featuring a maple leaf, a royal crown and the Latin motto *Memoriam Eorum Retinebimus* (“We Will Remember Them”), is displayed prominently on the sky-blue building. A Korean War-era C1 105mm Howitzer is parked out front.

Fabian visited the Canadian Legion a few times, but he was looking for something more than booze, darts and grin-and-bear-it stoicism. Now, thanks to the recent installation of an onsite vapor



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lounge, MFT presents an alternative for younger vets who choose pot over alcohol as their preferred social lubricant and self-administered medicant.

“When you go in the old Legion, you still feel like you’re out of place,” says Trevor Bungay who retired from the armed forces in 2014 after 17 years. “They still see marijuana as Woodstock and they just can’t get it. Don’t get me wrong, there are some people there that get it, but they’d never come out and say it, because they don’t want to ruffle feathers. This is the new Legion, let’s face it, right? If you wanna feel comfortable, smoke your marijuana and talk to people who know what you’re going through, where else are you going to go?”

Trevor did seven tours—Bosnia, Haiti, Eritrea, Ethiopia and four deployments to Afghanistan. The first time he was shot at, in Kandahar, he just stood there in a daze as bullets hit the dirt around him like raindrops.

“I was laughing with the guy next to me like, ‘This is the real deal. Someone is trying to kill us,’” he remembers. He volunteered to go back to Afghanistan and rose through the ranks to become a sergeant, in charge of 40 men. Coming home after his fourth deployment, Trevor knew

something was wrong with him. The VAC told him the darkness was normal and it would pass. It didn’t. His friends started killing themselves. He was eating 12-15 OxyContin a day. One night he found himself sitting on his couch with a rifle and a bottle of whiskey, not expecting to ever see morning again. He dropped the gun, waking up his wife who dragged him to the hospital. Having served with Fabian in Afghanistan, Trevor trusted him enough to try cannabis therapy. Today, Trevor runs Trauma Healing Center in Nova Scotia, a program similar to MFT.

“If it wasn’t for marijuana,” he insists, “I would be dead. One hundred percent.”

**THE DIVIDED STATES**

The obvious question is whether there will ever be a similarly progressive program for American vets. There’s a meme floating around on social media right now that reads, “If Congress committed suicide at the same rate as veterans, there would be no one left after 25 days.” An average of 22 American vets kill themselves every day. It’s a white-hot crisis the scandal-scarred Department of Veterans Affairs has proven incapable of stemming. Some VA doctors turn a blind eye to marijuana use, but others have

made patients choose between marijuana and their prescribed medications.

The Veterans Equal Access Act is a bill sponsored by Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-Calif.) that, if passed, would allow VA doctors in medical states to sign the paperwork needed to qualify vets for medical marijuana. (As federal employees, both veterans and VA doctors are currently subject to federal laws prohibiting cannabis). And while this legislation would be a start, only 23 out of the 50 states have legalized medical marijuana. Florida’s vets did not go to war for Mickey Mouse and the Marlins alone—they did it for America. A national problem needs a national solution.

Every 65 minutes, a veteran takes his own life. The time for a legal, moral or clinical debate about medical marijuana has passed. If it helps even a fraction of vets recover, it’s the VA’s moral responsibility to help them gain access. Soldiers don’t choose their wars. The least we can do is allow them to choose their peace. ✨

*Special thanks to Trevor Bungay, Lloyd Farmer, Matt Ferris, Kevin O’Neil, Cory Pike and Vince Rigby for helping me understand.*



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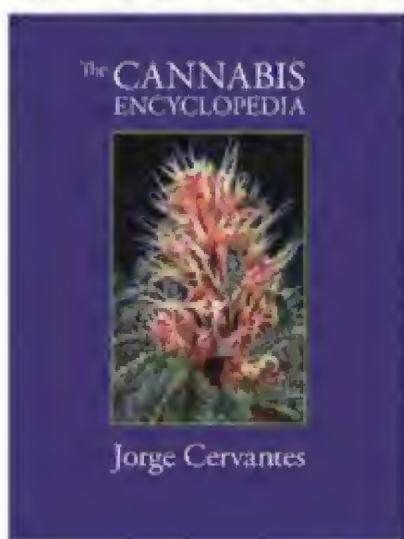
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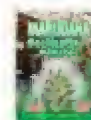
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INTERVIEW BY  
RICK CUSICK

# WHOOPI GOLDBERG

## THE HIGH TIMES INTERVIEW

**L**EGEND—AN OVERUSED WORD THAT ANY BIOGRAPHER WOULD BE WISE TO AVOID, BUT IN THIS CASE IT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT FITS. WHOOP! GOLDBERG IS A LEGEND. SHALL WE GO DOWN THE LIST? HER TWO EMMY WINS, ALONG WITH A GRAMMY, AN OSCAR AND A TONY, GIVE HER THE RARE, CUMULATIVE EGOT, THE GRAND SLAM OF SHOWBIZ. SHE HAS ALSO RECEIVED TWO GOLDEN GLOBES, THREE PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS, THE MARK TWAIN PRIZE FOR AMERICAN HUMOR, TWO AMERICAN COMEDY AWARDS—AND, AFTER THE FAMED DIRECTOR MIKE NICHOLS TOOK HER SHOW TO BROADWAY IN 1985, THE DRAMA DESK AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ONE-PERSON SHOW. SHE HAS APPEARED IN MORE THAN 150 FILMS AND, FOR A BRIEF PERIOD DURING THE 1990S, WAS THE HIGHEST-PAID ACTRESS OF ALL TIME. LAST BUT NOT LEAST, SHE IS AND ALWAYS WILL BE GUINAN ON *STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION*; SHE EVEN HAS HER OWN ACTION FIGURE—MULTIPLE ACTION FIGURES, ACTUALLY. (I OWN ONE.)

WHOOPI HAS SUPPORTED MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION, BOTH IN CHARACTER AND OUT, FOR OVER THREE DECADES: "I KNOW THE GOOD PARTS OF THIS PLANT," SHE DECLARED ON *THE VIEW*. MORE RECENTLY, SHE HAS TAKEN UP THE CAUSE OF PARENTS WITH SICK CHILDREN WHO NEED ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS. SO, AFTER SPENDING FOUR DAYS IN WHOOP!S WORLD TO GET THIS INTERVIEW, I WALK AWAY THINKING MAYBE ANOTHER WORD APPLIES: WHOOP! IS COOL. VERY FUCKING COOL.





**You have such a breadth of accomplishments. What do you consider yourself? An actress? You're not a comedienne...**

I'm a performer. I'm a storyteller.

**Okay. Tell me the story of your glaucoma.**

I turned 40, went to bed, woke up the next day; my book was by the bed. I went to pick it up and couldn't read it. And I thought: That's weird. I didn't wear glasses at all—nothing. I always had great eyesight. I waited about three or four days before I said something to the person I was living with. His best friend was this doctor, and his wife was an ophthalmologist. She said, "When was the last time you had a glaucoma test?" She gave me two of them, and the field was very spooky—you know, you're supposed to hit a beat when you see a light, so she was waiting for me to hit the beats. [Long pause] No lights. It accelerates from time to time, and if I'm not vigilant, I have headaches that are unmanageable.

**What was originally prescribed?**

Timoptic. They're the eye drops that most glaucoma patients are prescribed, and it doesn't cure it; it just sort of keeps it at bay. One of the great things about weed, for me, is that it kills the headaches that can accompany the glaucoma.

**Because it lowers...**

... the optical pressure, right. The combination of marijuana and Timoptic makes it manageable.

**After you were diagnosed, how long was it before you started using cannabis for relief?**

Wow... well, I had just been smoking for a long time before the glaucoma—and for the fun of it [laughter].

**Like, "When I was getting high, I noticed I could see!"**

What I did notice was that



Whoopi won best supporting actress in 1991.

**"I hear people say, 'Well, what about the children?' ... Yeah, what about the children?"**

there were fewer headaches; didn't take me long to see there might be a correlation. The shock came three years ago, when I stopped smoking cigarettes. Out of the fucking blue, I found I also couldn't smoke a joint, either.

**What happened?**

My lungs were like, "Oh, no—you won't be smoking anything again. We, the lungs, have spoken." However, the vape pen doesn't bother my lungs, for which I am so grateful. My daughter gave me a vape pen; she said it might be milder. What a godsend.

**Do you still just get high?**

With the glaucoma, almost all my use nowadays is medical.

**You grew up in Manhattan, right?**

Yes.

**26th Street and Tenth?**

Yeah—26th and Chelsea. The Chelsea Projects.

**And your mom...**

Wonderful woman. Took care of folks. At first she was a nurse, a pediatric nurse, and then she became a Head Start teacher—really smart, really funny and very wry.

**There's a word that's not used often—wry.**

Yeah. Wry... my mother is what it is. She's still the matriarch of this family. She raised my brother and me. She did it by herself. She never apologized for our life. She said, "I did the best I could with what I had, and frankly... shit happens." [Laughs heartily] "What can I tell you? Shit happens!" When she passed, I wasn't here, but I had just spoken to her.

**That was four years ago?**

Yeah.

**How old?**

Eighty-five. My brother said, "Okay, you need to come back from England, because this is happening." And I said, "Man, you know we gotta find a microwave." He's like, "What?" "She said she didn't want to be buried ... she wanted to be microwaved." So he said, "I think—I might be wrong!—but I think she meant cremated." [More hearty laughter] "Dude, I'm not sure... she just always said microwave." So he said, "I'll tell you what—let's cremate her and then microwave her!" So that's what we did.

**Was it tough growing up in Manhattan?**

Well, it actually—no. We were all in the same boat, didn't know we were poor, and it was New York City, which in the '60s felt like a smaller version of the whole world, every country. The world was changing: the clothes, the music, relationships and how we were having them. The Pill had just arrived, along with the Brits, Carnaby Street, the Gray and Black Panthers. Things were changing, and new things like acid and heroin were being introduced into our groovy world.

So I tried everything. Some things took a little longer to shake off, but I managed to do just that... thank God! It was crazy! Folks doing all kinds of

behavior. You'd be watching Savoy Brown at the Schaefer Music Festival, and suddenly realize folks were getting it on right there in the open. You had the Fillmore East going. Things were happening, and we were all part of a growing belief that change is important. But, yeah, in my younger years, drugs were part of my life.

**How old?**

Mmmm... 15, 16—and then I met some really fine folks who became real friends, who said to me: "You're too young to be doing what you're doing. We don't like it... you're too young for this crap you're doing. We're going to clean you up, and if we ever see you high on the street again, we'll kill you!" [Long pause] "We'll kill you." And that's exactly what they meant, and I believed them.

**And that's when you stopped messing around with hard drugs?**

Yeah.

**It seems as if what you eventually became is somehow an extension of that experience.**

Well, yeah. I mean, part of—a lot of what I became [tapping the table gently for emphasis] is the direct result of the people with whom I've come in contact over the last ... 60 years, y'know?

**We are the sum total of all we meet?**

We are. And it's really important that people know that. It's really important that you know that the people who you put yourself around are going to be what you're reflecting... A lot of my writing—I mean, the first show I ever wrote—came because we were smoking lots of pot and having fun and chillin'.

**What was that?**

It was originally called *The Spook Show*. I was living in Berkeley and working



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with a group called the Blake Street Hawkeys. I met this guy, and I was like: Oh, yes! Let's just be together! So I joined their troupe. I ended up in Berkeley, but first I was in San Francisco, two years before the onset of AIDs.

#### In '81?

1980. San Francisco in 1980! Everyone is living! Shit is happening! Shit is happening again ... a magic time! Dancers! Performance artists! The Pickle Family Circus!

At the time, you couldn't put your legs down—that's just the way it was! There was dancing. People were coming out, and Harvey Milk was talking, and people again were talking change, folks were coming out and talking about making shit happen, and then [a sudden stop] ... and then people started to get sick. People started to get really sick. And then people were being put out of their apartments [singing] *in de-men-tia* and left to walk the streets. I mean, we had a couple of friends—somebody called and said, "You've got to get into the Haight. You just need to come." So we get into the van and we're driving along and ... [quietly] huh. We drive up and my friend is walking. He's got thrush.

#### What's that?

Thrush. That was the white stuff that you would see in people's mouths, and you wouldn't know what it was; but it's called thrush, and that's how you knew they were sick. But he only had on... like, it wasn't even a hospital gown. He was bare-foot and in the street, and we realized that people were being discharged out of the hospital onto the street. They weren't being

taken back to where they lived, just discharged.

So we spent time looking for people. And then friends would take in other friends, and people were dying in your house 'cause nobody else would take them. Nobody knew what the fuck it was. They called it the "gay cancer," and suddenly you found yourself walking up to your friends and kissing them on the lips, because suddenly sick people wouldn't



"These parents are being treated like criminals—because, as a last resort and after much research, they've decided that cannabis may help their kid."

come out of their house, because they didn't know how it was transmitted and they didn't want to scare others. So in order to let them know they were welcome in your house, that you were not scared to have them there...

#### You kissed your friends on the lips?

Best way to say, "I'm not afraid of whatever the fuck you got."

#### It was a gesture of support.

Yeah. I'm here. It's okay ... And then life changed again. I got famous.

**You certainly did. You're not just a good actress, Whoopi, you're demonstrably a great actress. How does a girl from 28th Street rise to that level of craft?**

No one knows.

#### You know.

I know great actors—people that I think are great actors—and they all have this similar thing that I think I carry, which is the ability to make you believe it's happening—not "I'm pretending it's happening." It's happening! But, literally, the truth of the matter is: I got lucky. That's all it is. And I'll tell you why I say it. Someone had seen me do one of my one-person shows and told a guy in New York, who was doing a series of one-person shows. He sent me a letter and said, "Hey, I'm doing these shows and I've got a week open. Would you like to come?" And I thought, Ooo, the old neighborhood on 17th Street, and I'd love to see my mother... So I come out and, day one, no one was there but my mother [laughter].

**When they told you it was a "one-person show," they didn't tell you they meant the audience.**

But day two, Bette Midler is there.

#### Whoa!

And the third day it was Mike Nichols—and he came to me at the end of the show in tears. He said, "I was on the last transport out of Germany, so the piece you did about the Anne Frank House totally destroyed me. I would like to present this on Broadway next year."

After that, I get the most extraordinary love letter in the form of a review by a man named





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Mel Gussow in the *New York Times*. Gussow wrote so wonderfully, that was all the show needed. That was it. The publicist for the show saw an advance of the review and asked me to go for a walk. So we walked all around, and I said, "Where are we going?" She said, "We're not going anywhere in particular, but I want you to remember this day, because I think this is the last time you're going to be able walk around like this." And she was right.

**And you've lent your celebrity to social activism from the very beginning.**

Mm-hmm.

**Do you remember the first time?**

I do—I remember absolutely. I had run into Elizabeth Taylor...

**Good answer.**

Elizabeth and I were at a benefit for something else, and she came over as only she could, because nobody moved like her. We had already become friends, so now she says to me, "I need some help. I want to do this benefit. You know my friend, Rock Hudson—" I said, "When do you want to do it?" She said, "You don't even know what it is!" I said, "Baby, I know so much about this, it will break your heart." So that's how I got in. I was the first performer on the roster for her for amfAR [American Foundation for AIDS Research]. That's me.

**And most recently you've involved yourself in the issue of pediatric medical marijuana.**

When we talk about marijuana and I hear people say, "Well, what about the children?"... Yeah, what about the children?

**You've had the parents of children who need medical marijuana on *The View*, right?**

Oh, yeah—we had parents on the show, and then we had the lady from the American Academy of Pediatrics, which doesn't approve of giving medical marijuana to kids. I don't think she realized really what was at stake until she saw some of those parents.

**Yeah, I saw the clip, and the doctor seemed very conflicted. I think it changed the way she thought about this issue.**

The information is so clear. These parents are being treated like criminals—because, as a last resort and after much research, they've decided that cannabis may help their kid. They are doing the research themselves, documenting everything, and they know they may face jail time—but these are their kids, and they will do everything they can to bring peace to the convulsions or calm after the chemotherapy. When you realize that cannabis has been used as medicine for hundreds of years—I'm sorry, but it just looks to me like the powers that be don't want to admit they were wrong about this.

Also, let's be clear: It's not for everyone—but it's better than a lot of the drugs that are given to children now.

**Actually, in every medical marijuana state, the overall percentage of doctors willing to recommend cannabis at all is very small—and much less for children.**

If you have something that works, that your body can deal with, that you can take care of yourself with, why is this the bad alternative? Because the lie about marijuana has been told for so long. This is not about getting high, this is about getting in tune—just a little relief for the parents and for the kids. I believe we can do this. It's in my heart. And, y'know, if it turns out that we're pissing in the wind here, that will be me with the umbrella. 🌿





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# Oregrown Up

Success smells sweet and skunky as businesses set up shop in the fourth legalized state.



Congressman Earl Blumenauer and Aviv Hadar working together for Oregon legalization.

This trichome-rich LSD (Skunk 1 x Mazar) produced beautiful, full melt, solventless hash (below).



**A**VIV HADAR, CO-FOUNDER OF OREGROWN INDUSTRIES, INC., IS A BEND, OR, ENTREPRENEUR FORGING NEW PATHS IN THE RECENTLY LEGALIZED CANNABIS STATE. HADAR WORKED HAND-IN-HAND WITH CONGRESSMAN EARL BLUMENAUER TO HELP INFLUENCE THE DRAFTING OF MEASURE 91, THE 2014 LEGISLATION THAT PASSED WITH 56% OF THE VOTE, ALLOWING ADULTS TO LEGALLY POSSESS, USE AND GROW MARIJUANA. A KEY PLAYER ON THE STATE AND FEDERAL LEVEL, HADAR FOCUSES LOCALLY AT HIS DOWNTOWN STOREFRONT DISPENSARY BY OFFERING A UNIQUE FARM-TO-DISPENSARY EXPERIENCE—GROWING AND OFFERING THE BEST MEDICINE FOR PATIENTS AND, COMING THIS JULY 1, RECREATIONAL CONSUMERS.

## Who is Oregrown and how did you get your start?

We are a group of best friends who grew up together pioneering in organic cultivation, solventless and medical-grade hash oil. As legislation for the medicinal dispensaries started emerging, we had businesses asking us to sell in their dispensaries. But we weren't happy with the dispensaries, so after years of growing and making our product the absolute best, we said, 'let's see if we can turn this into a real business.'

## Was it tough to get licensed?

With two labs standing side by side, and by investing in our genetics and cultivation methods, we were in prime position when they started licensing dispensaries under House Bill 3460. We applied and received a license, and now have one

of the premier locations in the state. You know the state of Oregon is calling us the recreational hub because of all the recreational rollout and implementation that's happening here.

## What's it like working with the State?

We're founders of the Oregon Growers Association and are just incredibly politically involved. I work with the congressmen and with the head of the Oregon Liquor Control Commission all the time on implementation. It should go for a good smooth roll out because we're single-source and we don't really have margins in our business model, since we mix our own soil, own our own stores, and do everything in between. We kind of disrupt the market a little bit with what we can offer at what prices. So we've found ourselves really well positioned to help



influence a positive rollout so that the rest of the country can see how good this can be done and why everyone should do this.

**Do you think that you and other Oregonians are well represented?**

I've worked directly with Congressman Blumenauer on H.R. 501 to change federal tax policy for marijuana businesses. Beyond that, I'm always attending meetings with the governor, legislators and the joint committees, making sure Oregrown is represented. It's easy for them to call on us because we grow the weed, we make the hash and we have a store—so one seat at the table is processors, growers and retail—all in one.

**How does Oregrown set itself apart from its competitors?**

We consider ourselves the Apple of cannabis. We're all organic—we mix our own soil, we're super connoisseurs. We want people to experience the best possible medicine. We want to capitalize on how dank people think our cannabis

**We consider ourselves the Apple of cannabis. We're all organic—we mix our own soil, we're super connoisseurs.**

in Oregon is, because it really is. I want Oregrown to lead agriculturally and set the bar really high for retail stores. We're going to keep pursuing the high quality we're known for, and keep pumping out the best solventless we can.

**What potential challenges or roadblocks do you see arising?**

It's a constant game. You can't do normal business as an entrepreneur. When our Facebook and Instagram pages get shut down, I fly to Palo Alto to go talk to these people and turn our pages back on. The fact that no one knows we're legal here, operating under a state license, a city license, a county license—all the fragmentation in the rules are killing us.

You can't wake up and do normal business as if you're an entrepreneur with a cool iPhone app.

**What's the future look like for Oregrown?**

I think any entrepreneur with a solid radar is going to be looking at expanding into other states. Based on our genetics and breadth of cultivation knowledge, we've had a lot of interest from friends in San Diego all the way up to Trinity County, asking us how to get set-up for the rec stuff in 2016. I've obviously got California on my radar and I think that Oregrown would do awesome down there, but at the moment we're investing in ourselves here. My heart and soul's in Oregon. ✨

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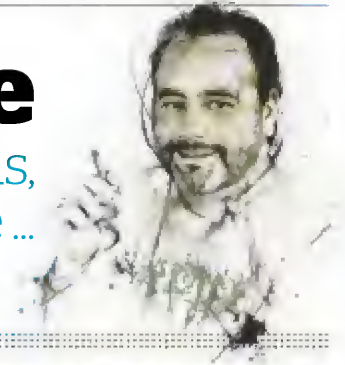


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# Expert Grow Advice

Purple pot, marijuana jobs, feminized seeds, growroom power outages and more ...



Send your cannabis cultivation questions to @deardanko or deardanko@hightimes.com.

Behold the coloring on this Purple Kosher Kush.



SUBJECT: **Purple Pot**

FROM: **The Kid**

🌿 How can I get my pot to turn purple like some of the buds in *High Times*? I keep seeing these beautiful pictures of purple pot and was wondering if there's anything I can do to grow something more like that. All of my buds come out green with red hairs.

Dear Kid,  
Some pot plants turn purple due to their genetics, and some thanks to cold temperatures during flowering. But with most strains, there's really no way to force them to turn purple. You can try using cold nighttime temps (not freezing, of course) during flowering, but your best bet is to seek out strains that are known to turn purple naturally, such as Grand Daddy Purps, Purple Wreck, Lavender, Purple Urkel and Purple Kush.



*Danko Tip:* Feed your plants lightly and flush with plain water in the last two weeks for cleaner-burning buds.



Tobacco mosaic virus causes serious leaf damage.

an experienced grower and follow all the community activities regarding legalization worldwide. Please help me out so I can plan a trip to the States and find good companies with possible jobs.

Dear Edo,

It's amazing to see all the job opportunities opening up in the legal cannabis industry! From growing and trimming to budtending and business ownership, the amount of job creation in the pot world is truly astonishing. Places like Denver and Seattle are being reinvigorated, and careers in cannabis are popping up around the United States as more places decide to wise up and legalize.

My advice is to move to one of these marijuana-friendly states and start networking. Look at the opportunities available and do whatever you can to get your foot in the door. Sometimes, starting from the ground floor can be ideal, so if you can't get that dream job growing in a warehouse, swallow your pride and consider a position as a trimmer or grower's apprentice. That way, you'll be able to see the industry from the inside and act accordingly.

There are also a bunch of online resources for finding jobs in the cannabis industry. Check out *WeedHire.com*, or just go to *HighTimes.com* and search "pot jobs" for a plethora of information on what's out there and how to get started. Good luck!

SUBJECT: **Bud Boosters**

FROM: **Glen J.**

🌿 I have a few plants outside, but the buds are really small and it's starting to get cold. I was wondering if there was any way to boost bud production before I'm forced to cut them because of frost.

Dear Glen,

While there's no way to get buds to grow any faster than they're genetically predisposed to do, there are still a couple of things you can do to harvest a decent crop. First, you can utilize some sort of greenhouse structure in order to extend your growing season. A hoop house or small greenhouse can retain heat longer in cold-weather conditions and keep your plants safe from frost for at least a few weeks before it gets too cold. If the

greenhouse is heated or attached to a heated residence, you can continue growing well into the winter.

You can also consider bringing your plants indoors and finishing them under grow lights, assuming that's an option. If they're not in containers outside, carefully dig them up (trying to avoid any damage to the root system) and then put them in containers that have drainage holes.

SUBJECT: **Pot Job**

FROM: **Edo S.**

🌿 I'm currently living in Holland and want to find a job in the cannabis business in America so I can eventually move to your magnificent country. How can I look for good job opportunities in the States? I'm

SUBJECT: **Holes in Leaves**

FROM: **Holy Roller**

🌿 What causes mysterious holes in plant leaves? Mine don't appear to have been chewed on by insects. I use two teaspoons of apple-cider vinegar per liter of water to keep powdery mildew from becoming a problem. It's not the apple-cider vinegar, is it?

Dear Holy,

If you've ruled out insects, which are generally the cause of most leaf holes, then I have to wonder if the vinegar might be playing a role. Do you pH-balance your solution after adding it? Vinegar is an acid and has a very low pH, so it might be locking out nutrients such as manganese and zinc, which could cause the holes you're seeing in your leaves.





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There are also several kinds of bacteria that cause holes, so if pH isn't the problem, look into possible plant diseases such as tobacco mosaic virus (TMV).



Feminized seeds produce only female plants.

SUBJECT: **Feminized Seeds**

FROM: **Jamel S.**

🌱 For a first-time grower who's growing hydroponically, would you recommend starting out with feminized seeds?

Dear Jamel,  
 Growing from feminized seeds is certainly easier than using regular ones. Because the sex is determined, you don't have to go through the process of figuring out the sex of your plants and discarding the males. If you have access to healthy clones, that's a viable alternative to growing from seeds at all.

I personally prefer to smoke plants grown from regular seeds, or clones of such plants, because they tend to be stronger and more reflective of stable, tried-and-true genetics. But I understand the appeal and ease of use in cultivating with feminized seeds.

SUBJECT: **Power Outage**

FROM: **Brian**

🌱 I'm a new grower and live on an island that was just affected by a blizzard. I had a power outage for over 24 hours. The power is restored now, but the temps got down to 37 degrees at one point. I've been vegging my ladies 18/6, but now my cycle's all messed up. The ladies have been vegging for over a month, so should I use that glitch in the light cycle to shock them into flowering, or should I just pick up vegging them where I left off? My concerns are temperature and photoperiod stress, as well as the possibility of them turning hermaphroditic if I continue vegging them. I need your expertise, please. I should probably mention that I'm using a T5 bank and a soil (Ocean Forest) medium.

Dear Brian,  
 A 24-hour power outage shouldn't cause too many problems,



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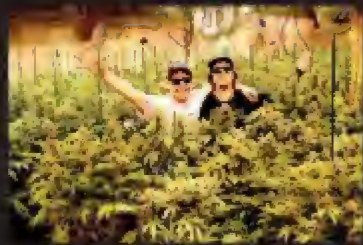
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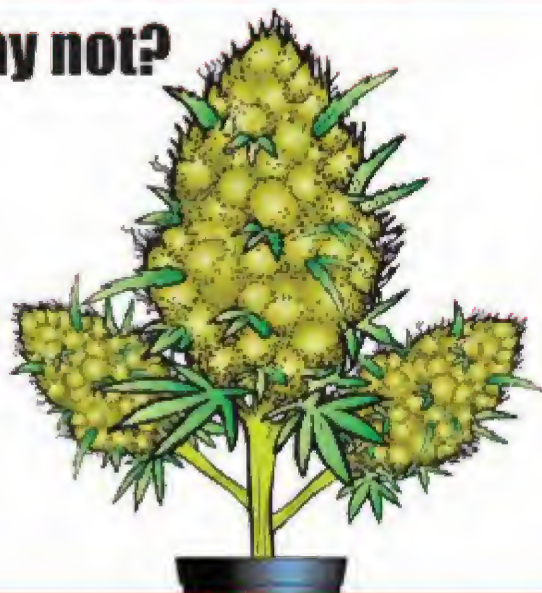
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and at least the temperature didn't go below freezing during that time. You might want to go with your gut and start the flowering process by changing the light cycle to 12 hours on/12 hours off, or you could continue vegetative growth by keeping the 18/6-hour cycle you've been using. It's far more important not to interrupt the dark period with light than it is the light period with darkness, so you should be in the clear as far as the light cycle is concerned.

The short period of cold temperatures may have shocked your plants, but as long as you're back to warmer temps and they lived through it, there won't be too many repercussions. A prolonged frost could have been devastating, but it looks like you dodged that bullet by avoiding cold temps for too long. Good luck!

**SUBJECT: Pot for Depression****FROM: Eric**

🌿 I'm 18 years old and suffer from depression. As a kid growing up with an alcoholic, cocaine-addicted mother, I've suffered from depression since my childhood. At age 15, I found out I had a different biological father from the man who raised me my whole life. I've smoked marijuana from time to time, but I know that, bottom line, it's illegal. When I smoke, it releases a lot of the depression and helps me take my mind off my problems, resulting in a happier me. I enjoy this other side of me being happy for once, but I don't want any trouble with the law. Is there any advice you can give me? Would I be eligible for a medical marijuana prescription—and if so, how would I do this?

Dear Eric,  
I'm sorry to hear about your suffering. Clearly, marijuana can work for some people suffering from depression, and there's a ton of anecdotal evidence that indicates its effectiveness. It sounds to me like you need to move to a state that will allow you to treat your depression with marijuana. Unfortunately, depression isn't a qualifying condition in most medical states, so you may want to consider a state where marijuana is legal for adult recreational use, such as Colorado, Washington or Oregon.

I'm not sure where you live now or what the penalties for marijuana use are, but if it's something that's helping you survive, my advice is to ignore the law and treat yourself with marijuana to improve your quality of life. Be safe, but put your mental health and happiness first. You deserve to be free of demons, and if marijuana helps you, that's all that matters. 🌿



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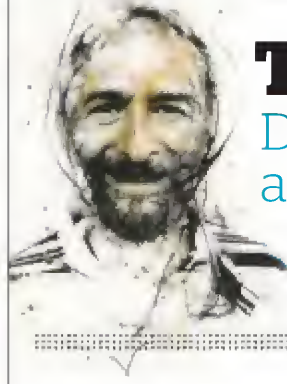


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# Toking Truth

Dollar jays, limonene and government fear.

Got a question for Dr. Mitch? Email him at [420research@gmail.com](mailto:420research@gmail.com).

Think we'll ever see those \$1 joints like we used to get back in the 1970s?

*Claude Mizer*

Hi Claude, Probably not, but when you take inflation and quality into account, we're not very far off in some of our legal regions. Correcting for inflation, a dollar from 1975 probably bought what four bucks buys now, and a joint was probably 4 percent THC back then. Today, a pre-rolled joint in Colorado runs about \$10 but is more like 16 percent THC. Taxes complicate the picture, but our lucky pals in legal states are almost enjoying the benefits of time travel.

Does limonene have any medical uses?

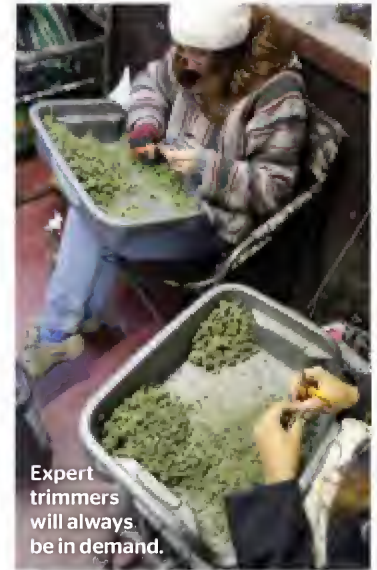
*Ganja Naranja*

Hi Ganj, This citrusy terpene common in many strains helps improve mood and decrease anxiety. Animal research and some informal tests with humans suggest that it might help dissolve gallstones, and a recent experiment shows it can ease heartburn. However, these effects only occur with doses beyond what you'd find in our favorite plant.

Can you think of any unforeseen negatives in repealing prohibition?

*Thomas Skeptic*

Hi Tom, We might see an influx of optimistic but unskilled laborers who dream of



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working as a budtender or cultivator and end up being disappointed. Or perhaps there won't be enough jobs for everyone who wants to work in the industry—who knows? But those are the only negatives I can see from ending an expensive, tragic war on American citizens.

Don't you think the next election will bring a big backlash and wipe the plant off the face of the earth?

*Scare D. Cat*

Hi Scare D., Not likely. Cannabis has been around and thriving since 2800 BCE, while countless empires and nation states have come and gone. You might as well worry that the Internet will run out of porn. 🌿

*Dr. Mitch Earleywine, PhD, is a professor of psychology at SUNY Albany and the author of Understanding Marijuana and The Parents' Guide to Marijuana.*



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# Blasters and the Art of Breeding

How concentrates are reshaping the cannabis gene pool. *By Craig Coffey*

**F**or millions of years, the cannabis plant evolved with Mother Nature acting as the head breeder. All of the world's landrace genetics were shaped by the hand of natural selection, including luck, timing and climate variables. Humans, on the other hand, started tinkering with the cannabis plant only a few thousand years ago. Over the centuries, we have shaped and reshaped the plant as our needs, circumstances and technology have permitted. We bred the plant for fiber, for resin production, for medicine and for getting stoned, and we changed the plant dramatically in our pursuit of these desired traits.

When humans originally domesticated the cannabis plant, we produced hybrid versions of landrace genetics selected for flavor, potency and growth traits, among other factors. Without natural selection as the guiding hand, varieties of cannabis that would never have emerged from random evolution have become the dominant species in the modern cannabis gene pool.

You can compare landrace cannabis to wolves and high-end boutique bud to dogs. Dogs evolved from wolves and exist because of human intervention in natural selection. But most dog breeds wouldn't survive a week in the wild—and even if they did, their ancient wolf genetics would re-emerge in a few dozen generations.

In the modern weed era, ever since the invention of high-intensity discharge (HID) lamps, we have seen the main focus of breeding centered around potency, shorter flowering times,

increased yields and physical traits that are valued by indoor growers. Most of these desired traits are the direct result of cultivating and breeding for the black market under prohibition. Recently, with the country now enjoying more liberalized cannabis laws in many areas, the emerging concentrates market has shifted the focus of breeders away from ever-increasing

potency and toward flavors and terpene production. Growers who are no longer under the threat of prohibitionist laws aren't as concerned with producing the most weight in the shortest possible

time. Once again, a shift in what we want from this plant will create new varieties that would never have existed in nature.

Concentrates are now a staple of the stoner diet—and, for the most part, people are blasting flowers bred specifically for thriving under artificial lights and for smoking in flower form. There is a change in the works, however. Producers of concentrates want different things from the cannabis plant than the traditional pot smoker. Concentrate producers are developing new grow techniques, using new nutrient profiles and developing brand-new strains specifically with the goal of making concentrates.

Traits like *less* density in the bud structure, more terpene production and trichome coverage on the fan leaves are just a few examples of what concentrate producers desire. So, as the concentrate market continues to develop, we look forward to more progression in the cannabis gene pool, which will help the world produce more interesting and higher-quality concentrates. 🌿



Concentrate makers favor buds bred for terpene production and flavor over potency and high yields.



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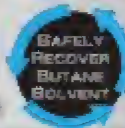
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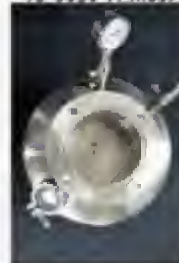
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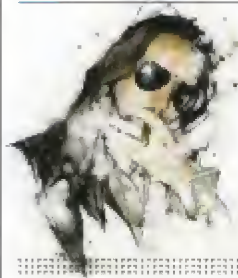
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## Rollin' With Tommy

Tommy Chong holds court at a glass gallery in NYC.

**T**here's probably no human alive who's been in *High Times* more than Tommy Chong, and there's a good reason for that: He's earned an honored place as the patriarch of the pot movement. Aside from his iconic films and albums with Cheech Marin, he's also starred on *That 70's Show*, written two books, performed numerous stand-up tours and run his own bong company (for which he served nine months in prison). Last year, he even made it to the finals of ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*—at the age of 76! And through it



Interviewing Tommy downstairs at the 1Percent glass gallery.

all—half a century in the public eye—he's never wavered in his support for marijuana and its legalization. That's why we love him, and why, when invited to visit with him again in my hometown of New York City, I was all too eager.

Mr. Chong was in town for an all-day event at 1Percent, a two-story pop-up glass gallery on Ludlow Street, celebrating the launch of his new paraphernalia line for the Dutch rolling company Futurola. From 2 to 4 p.m., Tommy hosted a series of joint-rolling classes: a beginners' class for basic grinding and rolling, an intermediate class covering cones and inside-out joints, and an expert class tackling specialty spliffs like the cross joint (although, this being New York, they couldn't use weed—substituting an aromatic blend of raspberry leaf and lavender instead).

Of course, Danny Danko and I didn't need joint-rolling lessons, so we arrived a bit later—at precisely 4:20. While Tommy and his son Paris stepped out for a quick meal, we had a chance to peruse the impressive glass art on display (most of it functional as well). These included some intricate,

insect-themed pieces by Toby Upton, a handful of off-the-wall abstracts, and some NYC-themed works like the "Stand Up Pigeon" by Just Another Glassblower and the "Williamsburg Hipster" by Slinger & Germ. One piece called "Grateful to be American" resembled a combination of an argyle sock, an antique vase and a Grateful Dead poster by Slinger & E.F. Norris. Another, entitled "Cheesing" by Elbo and MTP, was a tribute to the *South Park* episode where Kenny gets high from cat piss and visits the boob-filled world of the adult animation classic *Heavy Metal*. And down-

stairs, there was an insane wood-and-glass guitar hookah by Nate Dizzle and Josh Bohn.

When the Chongs returned around 5 p.m., we spent some quality time together before the official press reception began—trying out Tommy's new signature line of rolling machines, papers and grinders, conducting interviews, and sharing a smoke. As expected, he was as happy, humble and hilarious as ever.

When 7 p.m. rolled around, the crowd began to filter in, and soon the gallery was filled with fans eager to get their autographs and selfies with Tommy. Over a few gratis glasses of Grenache, Danny and I merrily mingled and networked with the various activists, artists and journalists in attendance before saying goodnight.

Tommy plans to promote his products at most of our Cannabis Cups this year, so if you've never had the opportunity to meet this living legend, all you need do is come to one of our events, find the Futurola booth and say "high." In the meantime, check out my gallery and video from the party at [hightimes.com/almostinfamous](http://hightimes.com/almostinfamous). ✨

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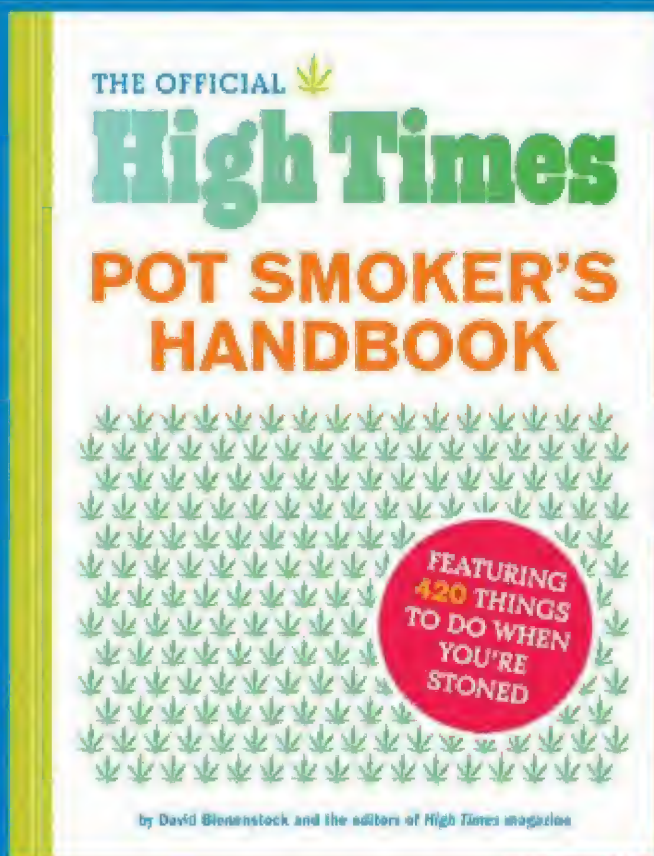
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# Facts of (High) Life

Legalization is no longer an abstract idea—and the hard numbers show it's working!

Allen St. Pierre is executive director of NORML. Visit [norml.org](http://norml.org).

**L**egalized pot is no longer a dream. Anyone who visited Colorado and Washington State in 2014 got a glimpse of the green wave now sweeping the nation.

For veterans of the marijuana-law reform movement, a discussion of the real-world effects of cannabis legalization was always abstract, since there were no hard numbers available to make a cogent case for “tax and regulate” versus prohibition. Today, however, consumer and business advocates for legalization have an abundance of economic, criminal-justice and public-safety data to buttress their pro-reform arguments.

The Drug Policy Alliance recently released a comprehensive report examining the effects of Colorado's first full year of recreational pot sales. The DPA reports that in 2010, Colorado made 9,022 arrests for cannabis possession; in 2014, there were 1,464 arrests—an 84 percent reduction. Cultivation and selling offenses were down 90 percent during this same time.

Over 16,000 employees are licensed to work at cannabis-related businesses in the state, helping to push Colorado's unemployment rate to its lowest point in six years. The state has also taken in more than \$50 million in sales taxes.

From a public-safety standpoint, the DPA



Processing cannabis for consumers is a nonstop undertaking.

Colorado has enjoyed an unprecedented spike in tourism and increased interest in local universities from out-of-state prospects.

report concludes that the state saw a 3 percent decline in fatal auto accidents during the first year of legal cannabis sales, and that over \$8 million in cannabis-related tax revenue has gone directly to support youth prevention and education programs. Colorado has enjoyed an unprecedented spike in tourism and increased interest in local

universities from out-of-state prospects. Housing in the greater Denver area is in high demand, and property values have soared.

So what are anti-pot advocates now focusing on to maintain the status quo of cannabis prohibition? The front groups for “Big Rehab,” such as Project SAM, claim an “epidemic” of emergency-room visits by children who have consumed cannabis edibles. (Actually, there were fewer than 20 emergency-room visits for this statewide.) Pot foes also claim an increase in the migration of homeless people hoping to enjoy legal weed, as well as an increase in calls to poison centers.

Poison centers? For *ganja*?

Washington State NORML didn't buy that last claim, so one of its members made a call to the Washington Poison Control Center on November 24, 2014. Here's how the conversation went:

“I'm calling to ask, to find out, what you tell someone who has smoked too much marijuana and may be having an adverse reaction?”

“As far as adults are concerned, it is difficult at best to overdose on it.”

“What if they think they've overdosed?”

“Well, that's probably just the paranoia sometimes associated with its use.”

Everybody feel safer now? 🌿

## FREEDOM FIGHTER

### Pentz Makes Sense

In Maryland, Judy Pentz rallies her neighbors to legalize.

Judy Pentz never believed that marijuana should be illegal, but her involvement became personal after her father was diagnosed with prostate cancer. Doing research in a quest to save his life, Pentz was outraged to discover many little-known studies pointing to marijuana's efficacy in treating cancer and a variety of other

diseases, including her own: She'd been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in 2008.

Wondering how to change the situation in Maryland, Pentz took it upon herself to start a Facebook page called “Maryland NORML” in 2013. Then she and her 84-year-old father traveled to the state capital of Annapolis and testified in favor of legalization. Over time, several



like-minded people joined her in the fight and eventually formed Maryland NORML's board of directors.

As executive director of the organization, Pentz has worked tirelessly to improve her state's marijuana policies. Maryland NORML was instrumental in helping to pass a statewide decriminalization law, the first step toward broader legalization, and also

assisted in efforts to improve Maryland's medical marijuana program.

Maryland NORML has since joined the Marijuana Policy Coalition of Maryland, which seeks to rally the public and pressure legislators into passing a “tax and regulate” law in the state. As for what the future holds, Pentz says: “I'm very hopeful that, within a year or two, Maryland will join the ranks of states like Colorado, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, and legalize marijuana.”

By Erik Altieri, NORML communications coordinator





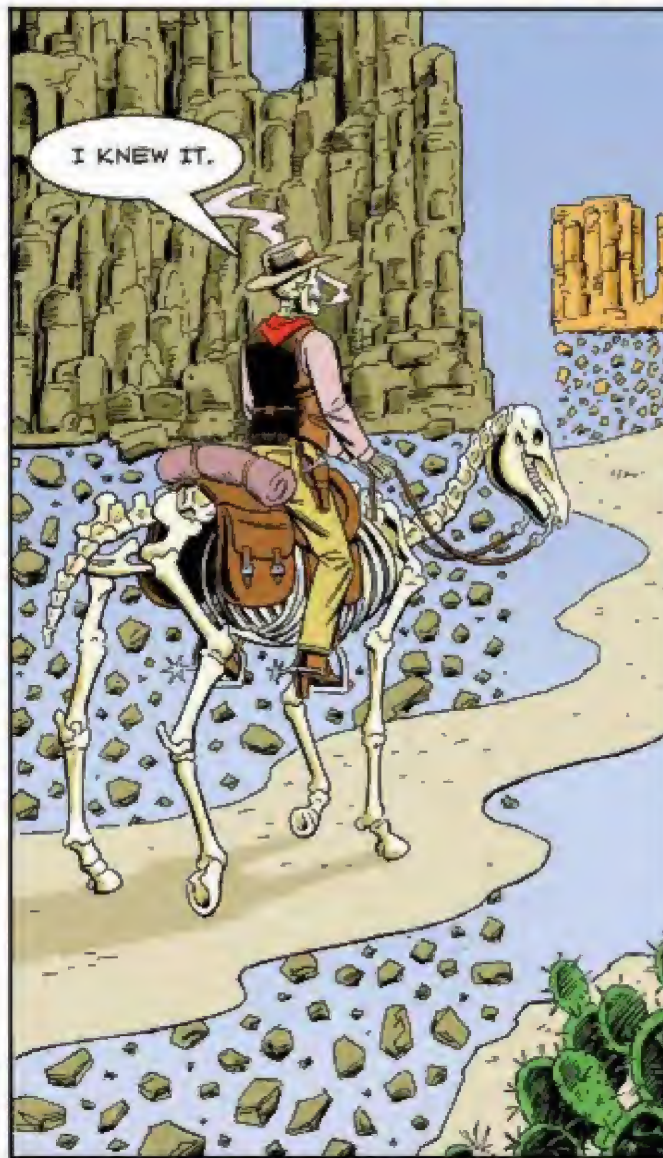
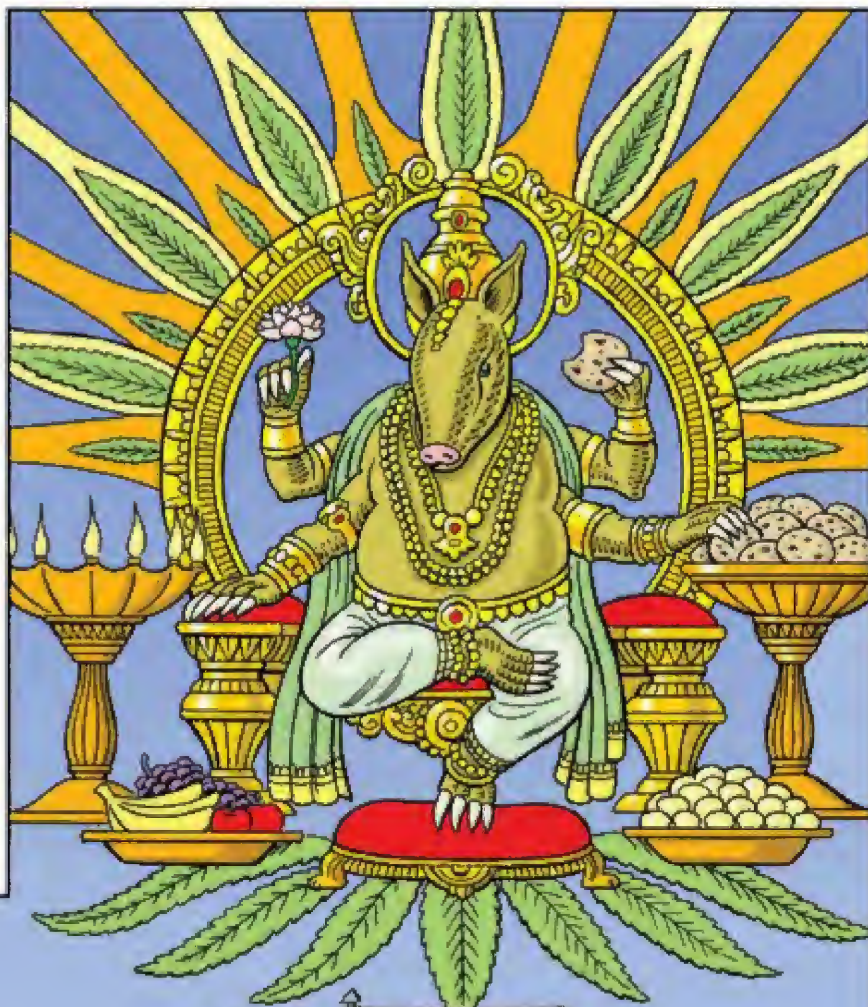
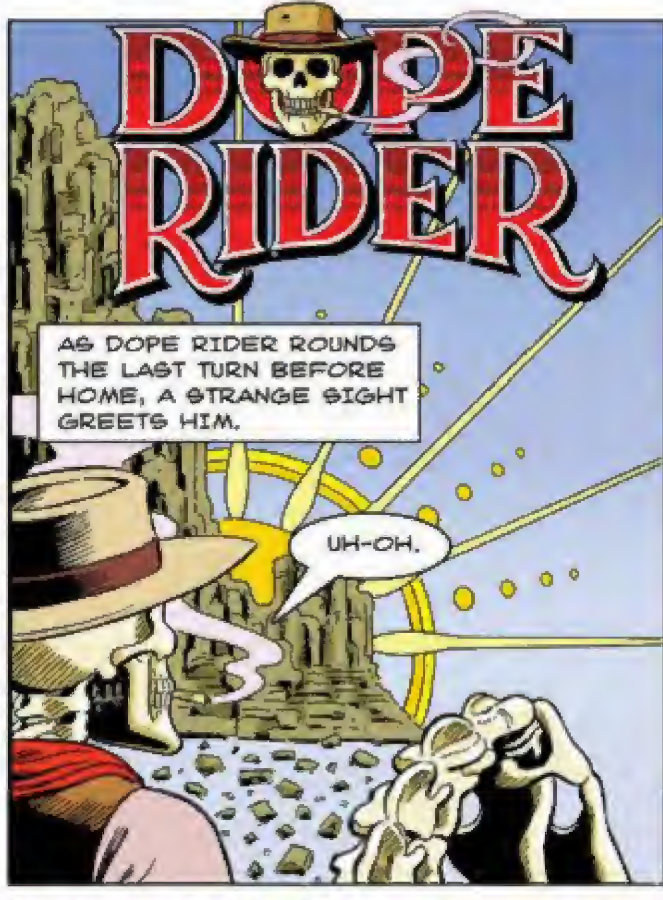
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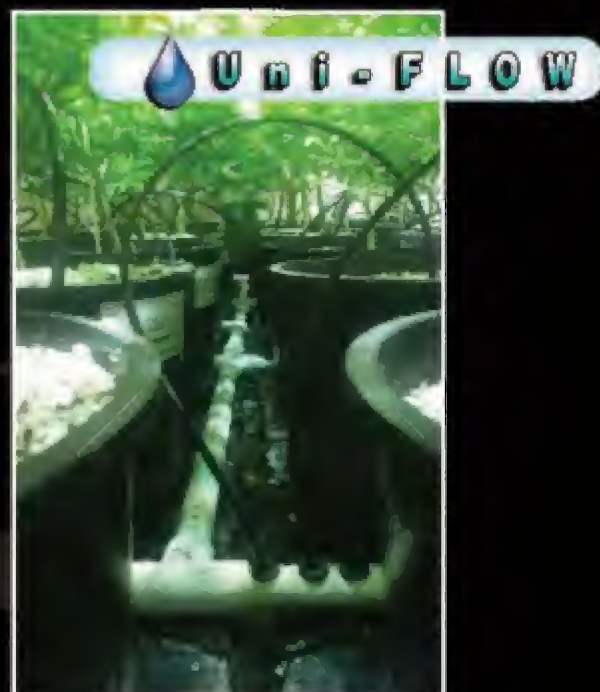
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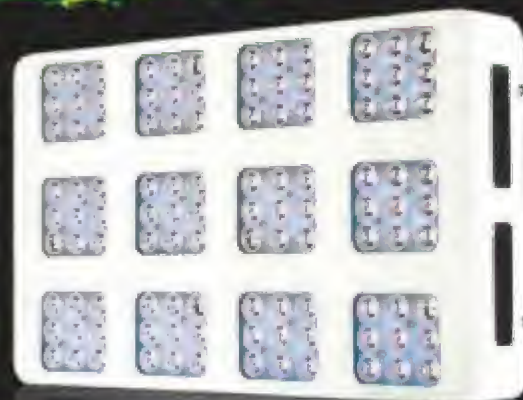
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**NUGS OF THE MONTH**

**Healthy Handful**

 My name is Alanna You and I took these photos during my time as a dispensary manager. AY



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**GROW OF THE MONTH**


**Roomful of Jack**

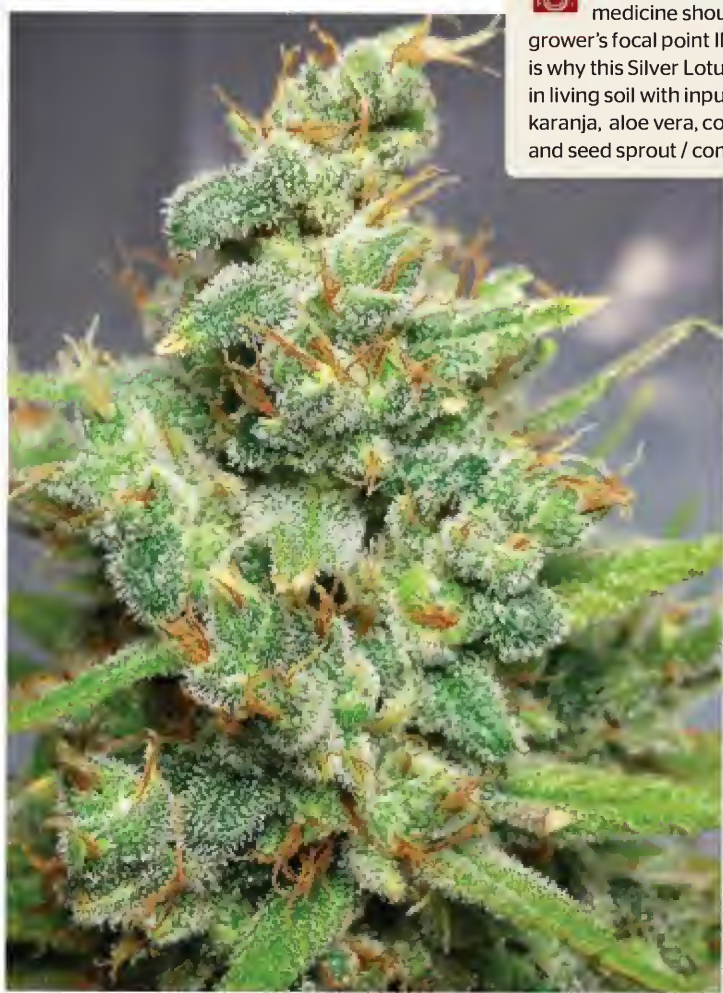
 Jack the Ripper has become a real "hit" around here thanks to great genetics, a recipe of RO water, coco medium, coco base nutrients, a load of supplements, an ideal environment, and straight up passion in what I do. Sent from Future Farms, WA. *Todd Terpene*



**CLOSE-UP OF THE MONTH**


**Pure Silver**

 Growing clean and healthy medicine should be every grower's focal point IMO - which is why this Silver Lotus was grown in living soil with inputs like neem, karanja, aloe vera, coconut water, and seed sprout / compost teas. *Jay R*



**GROWER OF THE MONTH**

**Smoky Mountains**

 From illegal backwood grows in Oklahoma to legal grows in Washington State, it's me, Stevo the medicine man. I don't think I've ever seen a Cherokee Indian in your mag and I'd like to be the first with a legal grow. Love the mag - been reading it since I was young. Always love the Cheech & Chong issues! Keep up the good work and hopefully next year I can send some more. *Midnite Toker*



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### ► Growroom Security

Paranoia is often an unavoidable side effect of growing pot. Do you worry about the security of your gardens? We provide expert tips on how to cover all of your tracks, stay off the grid and keep your cool.

### ► Jorge's Back!

Legendary cultivation expert and author Jorge Cervantes returns to *High Times* with an excerpt from his comprehensive new book, *The Cannabis Encyclopedia*. In the first in a series of articles, Jorge details the life cycle of the cannabis plant starting from seed germination, through the vegetative and flowering stages, and ending at harvest.

### ► Understanding Leaf-Surface Temperature

What's the most important temp to know in your garden? The one on the surface of your plants' leaves. Learn how to take your cultivation techniques to the next level by regulating heat where it matters most.

### ► Parents and Pot

There's nothing more heartbreaking for parents than seeing their children in seriously poor health. But cannabis has been a godsend for many kids. Editor in chief Dan Skye talks to moms and dads who rely on its healing properties for their children's well-being.





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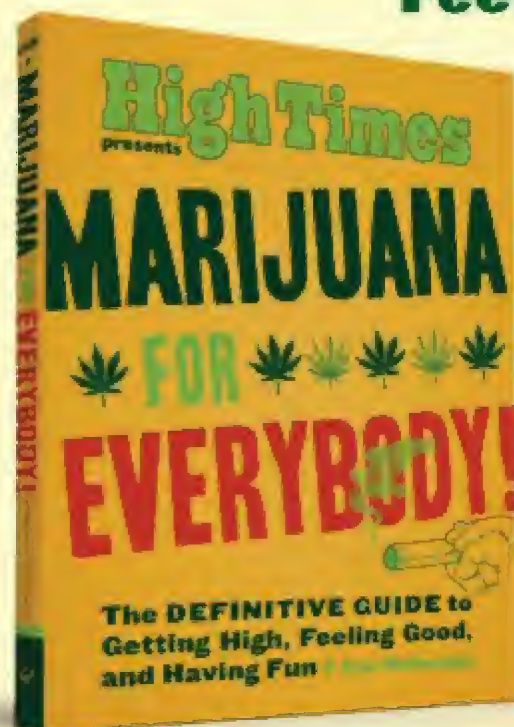
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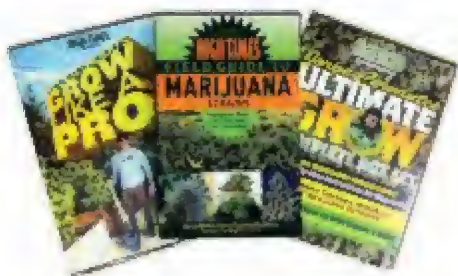
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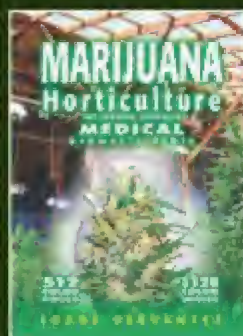


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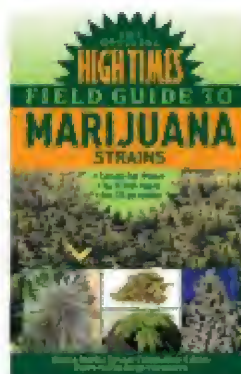


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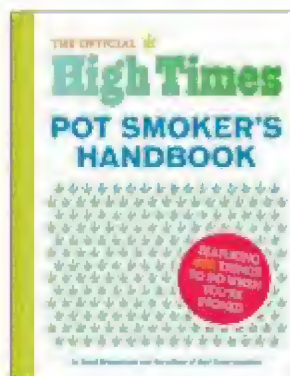
## High Times Books



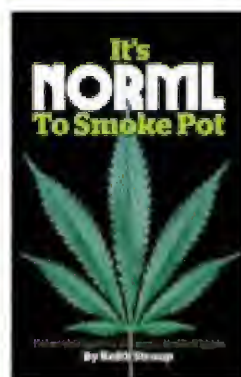
**The Official HIGH TIMES Field Guide to Marijuana Strains**  
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24 Schwabs -shitty dabs

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26 #AEN Pete Shapiro is suckin' cool

27 Hemp Hooray

28 Smoke 2 Joints @ 8:40

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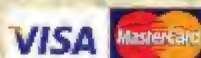
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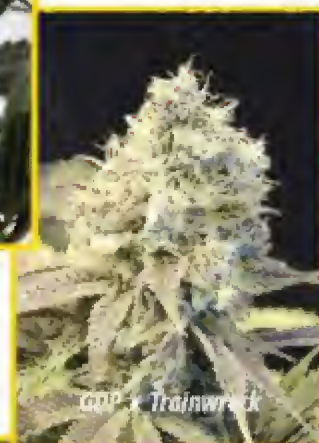
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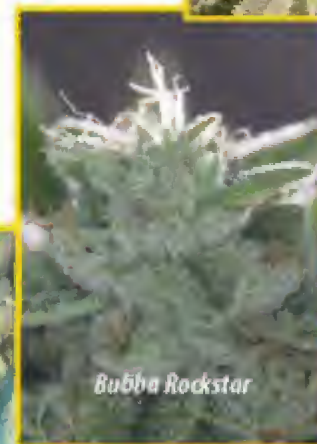
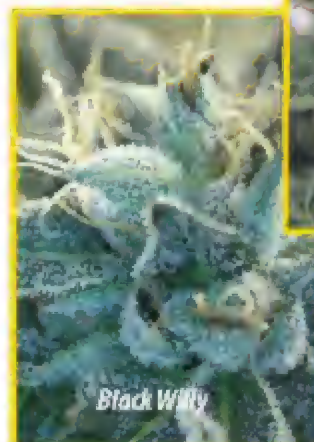
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# AI VACUUM OVENS - WINNERS' CHOICE -



AI's award winning vacuum ovens are the No.1 choice for cup champions\*. They are your BEST choice for curing and converting botanical extracts. With deep vacuum level they can operate at temperatures which allow evaporation and degassing/purging to occur rapidly. This increases productivity and ensures the production of superior quality products with minimal processing time.



Elite E10 1.0 Cu Ft 12x12x12" vacuum ovens with new 5-side jacket heating system

Check out our 3.2 and 7.5 cubic foot ovens with new **internal shelf heating technology**: each shelf in these ovens has its own heater, **in-shelf temperature sensor** and temperature controller; together with great thermal-conducted aluminum and our new low proportional controller technologies, the result is perfect uniformity, accurate temperature, super fast heating rates, minimum heat loss/exterior temperature and very low power consumption.

Our new ELITE series vacuum ovens feature a **new industrial leading 5-side jacket heating system** that also gives you perfect temperature uniformity, accuracy and fast heating rates, covered by industrial best **2-year warranty**.

\* Check our Instagram posts for a list of winners



Edwards vacuum pumps and accessories



Welch diaphragm pumps and accessories



AccuTemp-19 1.9 Cu Ft 16x14x14" vacuum ovens




## 7.5 Cu Ft

AccuTemp-75 22x24x25" vacuum ovens with internal shelf heating technology and in-shelf temperature sensors



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 **ACROSS INTERNATIONAL**  
Material processing equipment

\*"HIGH TIMES" "CANNABIS CUP" "MEDICAL CANNABIS CUP" AND THE CANNABIS CUP TROPHY ITSELF ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS USED UNDER LICENSE FROM TRANS-HIGH CORPORATION.